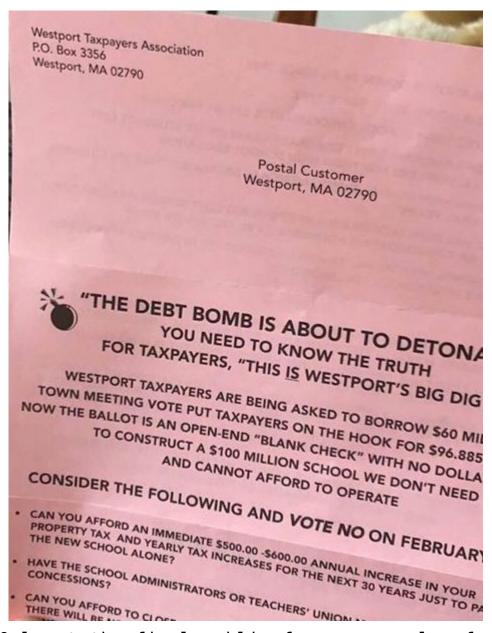
OPINION: Concerned citizen's thoughts on flyer from "Taxpayers of Westport" organization; Vote YES on Tuesday

As a property-owner and taxpayer (and parent of a school-aged child), I have been extremely interested in the whole situation surrounding public education in Westport.

As an ordinary concerned citizen, I've attended as many meetings of the School Building Committee, the School Committee, and the Board of Selectmen as I could. I have also devoted as much of my time as I could to participate in public forums, and citizen volunteer groups interested in the outcome of this special ballot measure. All of these activities have been honest, transparent, inclusive, and open to public participation and scrutiny.

And then lo and behold a flyer arrives in the mail today from a shadowy organization that claims to exist for the benefit of the taxpayers of Westport, but which was filled with false, untrue, twisted, and inaccurate statements. This is not really a surprise since no one from this association openly participated in any of the meetings and discussions that have been going on for several years now.



Only at the final public forum a couple of weeks ago did one of their members come out of the woodwork and attend — only to try hijacking the discussion with the same absurd and unsupported claims made in the flyer. All of these points have been rebutted repeatedly with patient clarification and explanation of the facts. But to the dogmatic extremist, factual answers that don't fit their preferred narrative are rejected, and so we see the same lies and disinformation repeated again and again

If you check the facts for yourself:

- The proposal on the ballot on Tuesday is no "blank cheque."
- The lawsuit against Monsanto has no bearing on the EPA-

directed closure of the Middle School.

- The Town and the State have demonstrated that this proposal is, in fact, ideally suited to the needs of Westport and its students,
- This proposal is the most cost-effective and economicallyviable option for today and for the future.
- There is no ticking time-bomb of debt, but rather a comprehensive and sensible plan for the future of our community.

For all of these reasons, and more, **THIS** Taxpayer is voting **YES!** for Westport on Tuesday the 27th of February.

But don't just take my word for it, check the facts yourself at http://westportsbc.com and http://westport-sos.com/

Sincerely, Lawrence Holsworth