

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.

Westport Taxpayers Association
P.O. Box 3356
Westport, MA 02790

Postal Customer
Westport, MA 02790



"THE DEBT BOMB IS ABOUT TO DETONATE" YOU NEED TO KNOW THE TRUTH

FOR TAXPAYERS, "THIS IS WESTPORT'S BIG DIG

WESTPORT TAXPAYERS ARE BEING ASKED TO BORROW \$60 MILLION
TOWN MEETING VOTE PUT TAXPAYERS ON THE HOOK FOR \$96.885
NOW THE BALLOT IS AN OPEN-END "BLANK CHECK" WITH NO DOLLAR
TO CONSTRUCT A \$100 MILLION SCHOOL WE DON'T NEED
AND CANNOT AFFORD TO OPERATE

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING AND VOTE NO ON FEBRUARY

- CAN YOU AFFORD AN IMMEDIATE \$500.00 - \$600.00 ANNUAL INCREASE IN YOUR PROPERTY TAX AND YEARLY TAX INCREASES FOR THE NEXT 30 YEARS JUST TO PAY FOR THE NEW SCHOOL ALONE?
- HAVE THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OR TEACHERS' UNION MADE ANY CONCESSIONS?
- CAN YOU AFFORD TO CLOSE THE SCHOOL?

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 economically-viable 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