

TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 01532

TEL. 393-2542

OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

January 17, 1974

William J. Leonard, Chairman
Robert R. Gabriel, Vice-Chairman
Mack Mitchell, Clerk
Frank A. Consiglio
Carmelo S. Panzera

Dear Colleague in Government:

A matter of great concern to all serving in local government is the inability of we as a group to be heard on the State level. We can write, call or instruct in person our State Legislators as to how the Municipalities feel about certain legislation, but despite our efforts, our voice is a voice in the dark.

It appears that our local Representatives are listening to us, but collectively, when the vote is cast, the Municipality, despite our efforts, seems to place second in a two man race.

Within the last few months, an attempt was made by certain individuals, namely, the ten men of Massachusetts, to secure legislation which would enable a town meeting by a two-third's vote to cut a school budget. The concept of control over school expenditures appears to be what the people in most Municipalities wish to achieve, but to allow such carte blanche control raises the question that perhaps the quality of education would be jeopardized without the presence of intelligence and knowledge, at the expense of emotion, salesmanship and numbers.

I am enclosing legislation which I feel will start the ball rolling toward a joint effort by all the Municipalities towards allowing local control of approximately 70% to 80% of a school budget, without sacrificing the quality of education. The least that could happen if all Municipalities were to file this special legislation, after local approval, would be that notice would be served on the great and general Court that we no longer act individually, but are in fact acting together and insisting that they accede to our wishes.

I am asking that you place the enclosed article in your Annual Town Warrant and let the people of your Town express their wishes. This is the first time a joint effort of this type is being attempted, so "try it, you might like it".



Very truly yours,

William J. Leonard
William J. Leonard

ARTICLE _____

To see if the Town will vote to petition the General Court pursuant to the provisions of Section 8 of LXXXIX of the Amendments to the State Constitution for a Special Law substantially in the following form or take any other action in relation thereto:

For the purposes of the last sentence of Section 178I of Chapter 149, the provisions of Section 34 of Chapter 71 shall be deemed to be not operative in the Town of

12. 26
Comm. from william J. Leonard, Chairman
Northborough Selectmen regarding legislation
which would enable a town meeting by a two-
Third's vote to cut a school budget.

In City Council,

January 21, 1974.

Placed on file

1-