



AFSCME Council 93

Massachusetts Public Employees

The largest AFL-CIO union in Massachusetts representing more than 50,000 public employees

Joseph Bonavita
Executive Director

February 6, 1981

Herbert Ollivierre
President

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Executive

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Recording

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Sgt. at Arms

Dear Prop 2½ Victim:

Have you heard the latest Proposition 2½ joke? It goes like this: PROPOSITION 2½ HELPS THE POOR TAXPAYER!

That's the line reportedly coming out of Citizens for Limited Taxation (CLT), the moving force behind this new law.

Someone should let the poor taxpayer know about it. All a taxpayer sees in the papers lately are planned cutbacks in municipal services and suspensions of capital improvements. And these local taxpayers are the people who depend on these services the most.

Proposition 2½ isn't helping anyone. That's the reality of this law. While it promises a reduction in property taxes, it robs municipal coffers of necessary operating funds. Without these monies, public services cannot continue and much-needed capital improvements (construction) come to a screeching halt.

Responsible local leaders throughout the state's 351 municipalities are debating a host of ideas to combat the loss of \$500 million in revenues caused by the passage of Proposition 2½.

In some cities, user fees are popular. In other municipalities, local leaders are looking to new taxes to make up for the Proposition 2½ budget cuts.

But no matter what local leaders conceive, they are helpless without the support of the state legislature. For here is where the decision will be decided. The state legislature is the only forum for any change in Proposition 2½.

So far, state lawmakers have been quiet about this new law. The fact that the electorate passed it by a 3 to 2 margin has a sobering effect on Beacon Hill.

A few brave municipalities - Brookline, Cambridge and Pelham - have publicly recorded their staunch opposition to the new law. But their outcries alone will not open the ears of state legislators.

-over-

That's where we come in. Working together in a broad-based coalition to amend Proposition 2½, we can reach our state lawmakers.

All of us are working at a fevered pitch in our own organizations, attempting to build a strong, anti-Proposition 2½ sentiment.

While we are in the building stages of our battle to amend Proposition 2½, we would like very much to share our ideas with you and your organizations.

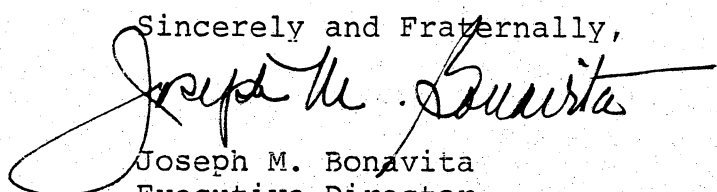
Hopefully, we can work together on this critical public policy issue.

Proposition 2½ is not helping the poor taxpayer. We know it. You know it. If we don't get together soon, Proposition 2½ will leave a mark on the Commonwealth that none of us can live with.

Enclosed is a confidential survey. Please take a few minutes to read it and mark your respective interests on this critical issue. We will get back to you by phone, once we have analyzed the statewide interest in a unified commitment to amend Proposition 2½.

We look forward to working with you, sharing your ideas and prevailing upon the state legislature to modify Proposition 2½ so that none of us will be harmed and our essential public services and capital improvements will continue.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joseph M. Bonavita", with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

Joseph M. Bonavita
Executive Director
AFSCME Council 93, AFL-CIO

JMB:lb

enc

PROPOSITION 2½ INTEREST SURVEY

Community leaders concerned about the impact of Proposition 2½ are banding together to seek redress of this service-slashing law. Please mark your preference in the items listed below:

☐

I would like to join a statewide coalition to amend Proposition 2½ and protect local municipal services.

☐

My organization would like to share its plans to change Proposition 2½ with other concerned public groups.

☐

I would like to meet with other organizations to set up a working coalition to amend Proposition 2½.

☐

I am interested in literature defining this campaign to save municipalities from devastating public service shutdowns.

PLEASE PRINT:

(Name) _____

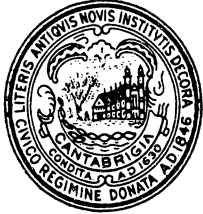
(Address) _____

(Telephone) _____

(Organization) _____



This survey will be kept confidential. Please mail today in the enclosed self-addressed, postage-paid envelope!



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 498-9011

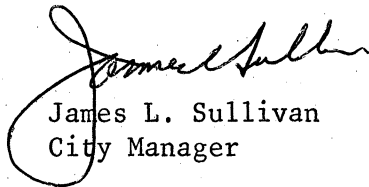
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

February 23, 1981

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a communication distributed by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Council 93 relative to Proposition 2½.

Very truly yours,



James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/mbf
Enc.

Agenda # 10

S-116

Comm. from the American Federation of State,
County & Municipal Employees Council 93
re: Prop 2½.

In City Council,

Feb. 23, 1981

2/23/1981

Placed on File