

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Donald R. Marquis
Town Manager



Town of Arlington

MASSACHUSETTS 02174

730 Massachusetts Avenue
Telephone 646-1000

March 5, 1987

Dear Municipal Official:

Subsequent to my last letter to you dated January 12, 1987, municipal officials received a letter from the Special Commission on Local Aid signed by Senator Richard Kraus and Representative Patricia Fiero as co-chairmen of that commission. The letter was sent to municipal officials in response to my letters to you. The claim from the Local Aid Commission is that the state is, in fact, returning 40% and more of growth taxes to the cities and towns. Obviously, there is an attempt to rewrite history and redefine local aid. Local aid has always been clear in the minds of municipal officials; it is the state aid to the cities and towns as it is reported on the so-called Cherry Sheet. Any attempt to redefine local aid at this stage to mean something else is not acceptable. You might also be interested to know that Senator Patricia McGovern, Chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, has recently stated that the 40% local aid promise came from the Governor and not the legislature. She has apparently forgotten that there is also a state law, passed in 1978, that guarantees 40% growth taxes to the cities and towns.

On February 12, 1987, I received a letter from the State Office of Campaign and Political Finance indicating that, based on a Supreme Court decision in 1978, I may be precluded from using town funds and stationery to communicate with local officials regarding my proposal. I have referred this letter to our Town Counsel and our Special Counsel for advice.

A few weeks ago, I met with the Massachusetts Municipal Association Fiscal Policy Committee to discuss my referendum question. Unfortunately, I received very little support from that committee. To date, I have received only thirty-four letters of support from the cities and towns of the Commonwealth; that is less than 10%. I hope to hear from more of you subsequent to this letter.

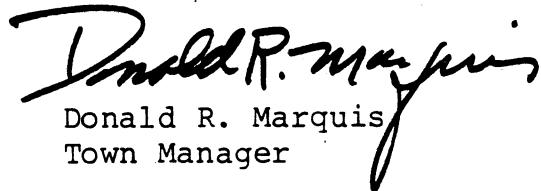
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Obviously, I strongly feel that my suggested referendum proposal makes a lot of sense. But, unless I can get the support of the great majority of the cities and towns, through their officials, it is going to be an impossible task to gather the 100,000 signatures necessary to put the question on the ballot and to receive voter approval.

Even though there may be just a handful of communities financially in trouble currently, it is only a matter of time before all of the cities and towns in Massachusetts will be financially hard pressed.

Finally, therefore, I would strongly urge all of you to give me your support NOW so that we can, together, move forward in our attempt to get our fair share of state revenues. Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Donald R. Marquis
Town Manager

DRM/s

11.

S-204

Comm. from Donald R. Marquis, Town Manager of Arlington, urging support for his proposal to place a local aid referendum on the 1988 ballot for the return of a percentage of the State's growth taxes to cities & towns.

In City Council,

March 23, 1987

*Referred to the City Manager
for report in one week
on motion of Councillor
Wolf*