



## City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

*In the City Council, April 14, 2022*

Upon the Recommendation of Councilor Karen Foster, Councilor Rachel Maiore and Councilor Stanley Moulton

**R-22.080**

### **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE FAIR SHARE AMENDMENT ON THE NOV. 8 STATE ELECTION BALLOT**

**WHEREAS**, Massachusetts needed new investments in our transportation and public education systems even before the COVID-19 pandemic, and those investments are needed more than ever to lift our economy into an equitable and long-lasting recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, the best way to help working families and rebuild a strong and equitable economy for us all is to make sure that we have quality public schools for our children, affordable public higher education, and high quality transportation infrastructure, including a reliable and robust public transportation system; and

**WHEREAS**, for Massachusetts to compete against other regions around the nation and the globe, we need modern, reliable transportation: safer roads and bridges, public transportation that works, infrastructure to support safe pedestrian and cycling routes; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 70 school aid to Northampton Public Schools and Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School has remained flat for the past 10 fiscal years; and

**WHEREAS**, students need a well-rounded education, founded on a rich and varied curriculum that includes science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), music, art, and athletics; and

**WHEREAS**, major investments in public education are needed to help students recover academically, socially, and emotionally from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, tuitions and fees at our public colleges are among the highest in the country, forcing students to take on enormous debt just to receive a degree; and

**WHEREAS**, new state revenue is necessary to rebuild crumbling roads and bridges, improve our public schools from Pre-K through college, expand access to vocational and technical training, make public higher education affordable again, invest in fast and reliable public transportation, and reduce reliance on automobile trips through investments in public transportation and expanded cycling and pedestrian opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Northampton has four structurally deficient bridges, including two on Interstate 91<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, wealthy Massachusetts residents saw their investments grow during the pandemic while working families struggled, and Massachusetts' wealthiest residents should pay their fair share to support our communities and grow our economy.

**THEREFORE**, let it be resolved that the City of Northampton supports the proposed Fair Share Amendment that would create an additional tax of four percentage points on annual income above \$1 million and dedicate the funds raised by this tax to quality public education, affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges, and public transportation.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Administrative Assistant of the City Council shall send a copy of this resolution to Governor Charles Baker, Attorney General Maura Healey, state Senator Jo Comerford, state Representative Lindsay Sabadosa; Senate President Karen Spilka, and House Speaker Ronald Mariano.

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<sup>1</sup> [Massachusetts Dept. of Transportation](#), Jan 11, 2021