

VOTE YES FOR THE AMHERST PLAN ON MAY 1ST!

Dear Neighbor,

Amherst needs you. We are heading towards weaker schools, slower ambulance responses, fewer police and firefighters, reduced library access, fewer services. In the past Amherst has balanced the budget with spending cuts, short-term revenue collections and expenditure of town reserves. This is no longer a viable option – it is time to break the cut-and-tax cycle.

On May 1st we will have a chance to VOTE YES for the Amherst Plan, which responds to today's crisis with a thoughtful and deliberate long-term plan.

The **Amherst Plan** was developed by the Finance Committee as a three-year approach to achieve long-term financial stability, maintain schools and service levels, and avoid future overrides for at least three years. The details and benefits of the Amherst Plan are outlined on our website at www.theamherstplan.org, without it we face major cuts in schools and services next year and for the foreseeable future.

The **Amherst Plan** includes three key elements:

- **Control spending with caps and cuts.** Cut spending for the town, schools and library for next year and cap budget increases for the next two years.
- **Build new revenues.** Find other revenue sources beyond taxing people's homes. The Amherst Plan calls for pushing state initiatives like a local option meals tax, pressing the tax-exempt institutions for realistic cost-sharing, and encouraging the growth of appropriate taxable business activity. The plan supports careful and proactive pursuit of economic development activities to broaden the tax base.
- **A one-time \$2.5 million override which,** with careful management and spending controls, will last for at least three years.

You can help to make the **Amherst Plan** a reality. Please consider contributing time, money and/or yard space to pass the **Amherst Plan**. Please return this form and/or send monetary contributions to:

The Amherst Plan Committee, PO Box 261 Amherst, MA 01004-0261.

Money will be used for mailings, signs, brochures, etc. Email contact: volunteer@theamherstplan.org

Name	
Address	
Preferred contact (email or tel.)	
Other contact (email or tel.)	

I am willing to

<input type="checkbox"/>	Put a sign on my lawn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hold signs at intersections
<input type="checkbox"/>	Make fundraising phone calls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Make get out the vote phone calls
<input type="checkbox"/>	Help with mailings	<input type="checkbox"/>	Help plan activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Put a bumper sticker on my car	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sign my name to a signature ad

*The **Amherst Plan** Committee is a political organization formed to support the 3-year plan to achieving financial stability and the Override Ballot Initiative.*

The Amherst Plan Committee, P.O. Box 261, Amherst, MA 01004
Diana Spurgin, Treasurer