

Dudley Proposition 2 ½ Capital Overlay Expenditure Exclusion

Question 2 Fact Sheet

Prepared May 16, 2023

The June Town Election ballot places a Proposition 2 ½ Capital Overlay Expenditure Exclusion question before voters:

Question 2: Shall the Town of Dudley be allowed to assess an additional \$463,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the Town's share of the costs of a High School Feasibility Study by the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District, as required under the Massachusetts School Building Authority School Building Grant Program and as recommended by the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023?

If approved, the Capital Exclusion would raise taxes for one year by adding 32 cents to the tax rate starting in Fiscal Year 2024, which begins July 1.

Note: As of July 1, the debt payments for the Town Hall renovation are finished. This reduction of \$344,177 in debt will drop today's tax rate of \$10.16 per \$1,000 of valuation by 24 cents to \$9.92 starting July 1.

For the past 14 years, the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District has applied to the Massachusetts School Building Authority program that would grant fund 50-59% of a Shepherd Hill renovation.

The MSBA has accepted Shepherd Hill into the program. The first step is a building feasibility study, which requires the financial support of both Dudley and Charlton. If the two towns do not fund the study, the MSBA will take its funding to a school system that is supported by its town(s).

The Feasibility Study on Shepherd Hill Regional High School was approved by the School Building Committee and the DCRSD School Committee.

The Charlton Assessment of \$537,000 has been approved at its town meeting.

The Dudley Assessment of \$463,000 will not be funded without passage of Question 2 on the June 12 election ballot.

The MSBA reimburses 50-59% of the feasibility study costs, which is returned to the towns through credits to future assessments.