

# Draft FY20 Override Commitments

## 1. Exercise fiscal discipline, and provide quality municipal services.

- a. Commit to no Proposition 2½ overrides for at least four years.
- b. Continue to increase general education operating budgets by 3.5% annually.
- c. Continue to increase general government operating budgets by 3.25% annually.
- d. Continue to fund special education cost growth at a rate of 7% per year.

## 2. Respond to ongoing school enrollment growth pressures.

Increase the education budget for future enrollment increases at a rate of 50% of per pupil expenditures.

## 3. Build Arlington's future.

- a. Phase in funding of the School Committee's Multi-Year Plan to: address the impact of explosive enrollment growth of 27% since 2011; improve instruction; close the achievement gap for high needs students; ensure safe and supportive schools; and attract, retain, and develop talented staff. Adopt the following schedule of increases to base operating budgets: FY20 - \$600,000; FY21 - \$600,000; FY22 - \$800,000; FY23 - \$800,000.
- b. Improve mobility for all residents, and support the goals of the Town's [Complete Streets](#) and [Age-Friendly Community](#) initiatives by adding \$250,000 to the base budget for pedestrian infrastructure and senior transportation.

## 4. Minimize impact on taxpayers, particularly seniors and others with income challenges.

- a. Advance new tax relief programs, including a municipal circuit breaker and increased eligibility for property tax deferral options, and publicize existing relief programs.
- b. Remove certain water and sewer debt costs from property tax bills.
- c. Pursue new revenue sources.
- d. Work with financial leadership to develop bonding schedules that will minimize single-year tax increases and debt service costs related to the Arlington High School rebuild.

## 5. Protect against future fiscal shocks, and maintain the Town's strong bond rating.

Maintain financial reserves at 5% or better for the duration of the four-year plan.