

## **Arlington, Massachusetts School Committee Resolution In Support of the Massachusetts Fair Share Amendment**

**WHEREAS**, the best way to build a stronger economy for all of us is to make sure that we have quality public schools for our children starting with pre-K continuing through affordable public higher education, and a reliable transportation system; 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**, the COVID-19 pandemic has only heightened the need for major investments in pre-K through 12 education to help students get on track academically, socially, and emotionally; and

**WHEREAS**, tuitions and fees at our public colleges are among the highest in the country, and too many students are forced to take on debt that may take years for them to repay and that may consequently limit their ability to afford good housing, raise a family, and otherwise spend and participate in our economy; and

**WHEREAS**, for Massachusetts to compete against other regions around the nation and the globe, we need modern, reliable transportation and safe ways to drive, walk, and bike; safe public transportation that works, and safe roads, bridges, tunnels, and sidewalks; more climate resilient transportation options; and

**WHEREAS**, we have a large backlog of neglected and structurally compromised bridges, tunnels, roads, and public transportation infrastructure in need of repair<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, now more than ever to lift our economy into an equitable and long-lasting recovery we need new investments to fix our transportation system and improve our public schools, make public higher education affordable again, and

**WHEREAS**, our Commonwealth's highest-income residents—who have seen their collective net worth rise dramatically in recent years—pay the lowest percentage of their annual earned income in state and local taxes, and have the ability to pay more for the investments we need to build a strong economy<sup>2</sup>;

**THEREFORE**, let it be resolved that the Arlington School Committee supports the proposed Fair Share Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that would create an additional predictable, annual tax of four percentage points on annual income above one million dollars 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.

1. Boston Globe, [Mass. still short on transportation funding, report says](#)

2. Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, ["Who Pays? Low and Middle Earners in Massachusetts Pay Larger Shares of their Income in Taxes"](#)