

(for municipalities in school districts)

Town of _____ Board of Selectmen
Resolution Regarding Property Tax Relief

(date)

TITLE: RESOLVE, TO DECLARE THE INTENT OF THE _____ BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO DEDICATE FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS A RESULT OF THE PASSAGE OF REFERENDUM QUESTION #1 TO PROPERTY TAX RATE REDUCTION AND RELATED PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, on June 8, 2004, the people of Maine decisively approved a referendum question (hereafter called "Question #1") requiring the State of Maine to pay a full 55% of local education costs, including 100% support for special education; and

WHEREAS, 55% state funding for education has been long sought by Maine municipalities due to the legislature's continual inability to meet this goal, which was established in law by the Maine legislature in 1984; and

WHEREAS, the impact of the legislature's failure in fully-funding the State's portion of local education costs has been a primary reason for Maine's high property tax rate, which has greatly overburdened both residents and businesses and made Maine less competitive in attracting new economic development; and

WHEREAS, the municipal officers of the Town of _____ and throughout Maine have long desired to reduce property taxes but have been unable to do so without sufficient State funding for education; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Question #1 will have the effect of providing significant new funding to the School Administrative District #___ to which the Town belongs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of _____ publicly and forcefully declares its understanding that the additional state resources provided to SAD #___ as a result of the adoption of Question 1 should be dedicated to the reduction of the property tax commitment for the District's citizens and businesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to advance and implement this understanding the _____ Board of Selectmen is asking the Board of Directors of SAD #___ to work in consultation with the Maine Department of Education to clearly identify on the school budget documents beginning in FY 2006 all additional net revenue provided to SAD #___ as a result of the legislature's implementation of Question 1; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to further advance and implement this understanding the _____ Board of Selectmen is asking the Board of Directors to recommend to the voters of the District the adoption of a school budget that if adopted by those voters would result in a minimum of 90% and potentially 100% of that identified revenue being used for the purpose of reduced SAD assessments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby dedicates itself to the task of demonstrating to our citizens and businesses that this community is committed to lowering the property tax

burden on our citizens and this community and our State more competitive in the business world by lowering the property tax burden.