



School Department Budget & Operational Override

April 7, 2021



Question #1: May 4, 2021 Town Election Ballot

The Shrewsbury Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to place the following ballot question before Shrewsbury voters at the May 4, 2021 town election:

QUESTION 1

Shall the Town of Shrewsbury be allowed to assess an additional \$9,500,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding municipal and school operating expenses for the fiscal year beginning July first, two thousand twenty one?



A “Yes” Vote on Question 1: Significant Benefit to Our Town

- Additional revenue generated for municipal departments and School Department operating expenses
- Financial stability for our town government



A “Yes” Vote on Question 1: Fiscal Responsibility & Transparency

- Groundbreaking agreement between the School Committee and Board of Selectmen to exercise fiscal discipline and commit to no additional Proposition 2 ½ override questions for at least 4 years



A “Yes” Vote on Question 1: Sufficient Resources for Our Schools

- Maintaining current staffing and programming
- Adding the staff necessary to properly open the new Beal School



A “Yes” Vote on Question 1: Sufficient Resources for Our Schools

- Providing tuition-free, full-day kindergarten for all
- Incrementally restoring positions, programming, and supports that have been cut in previous years



A “Yes” Vote on Question 1: Success for Our Students Next Year

- Add 32.6 full-time equivalent staff to relieve elementary overcrowding, provide full-day K for all, and open the new Beal School as planned
- Keep all current positions and programming and add back four teaching positions cut this year (two 5th grade teachers and two SHS teachers)



If Question 1 Fails: Failure to Provide for Our Students Next Year

- Cut \$2.94 million and 48.7 full-time equivalent positions from the budget across all grade spans
- Do not open the new Beal School as planned
- Significant increases in class sizes and less academic support



If Question 1 Fails: Failure to Provide for Our Students Next Year

- Closing of all elementary school library media centers
- Reduction of special subject/allied arts programming in Grades K-8
- High school students not able to take expected AP courses and electives

Our School District is Facing an Education Emergency





If Question 1 Fails: Failure to Provide for Our Students Next Year

Without sufficient local revenue, the school district will need to make major cuts to personnel and programming and will not be able to properly open the new Beal School, which will severely compromise our schools' ability to meet our students' needs at a critical time when they need our strong support.



If Question 1 Fails: Failure to Provide for Our Students Next Year

Severely reducing our schools' resources next year will compound the negative effects of the pandemic on our students' well-being and academic progress.



The Importance of a “Yes” Vote

A YES vote on Question 1 on May 4 will provide our schools with the resources they need to ensure that our town’s children receive an excellent education.