



Town of Windham

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A

PROCLAMATION

of the

WINDHAM TOWN COUNCIL

CALLING UPON ITS LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

WHEREAS, Windham, like many towns, has seen an influx of new residents who want to live here; and

WHEREAS, Windham has recently been named one of the top ten “hottest zip codes in the country”; and

WHEREAS, the prices of houses in Windham have increased substantially since the Covid 19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, there are residents in our community who have lived here for many years; and

WHEREAS, these long-term residents include senior citizens who live on fixed incomes; and

WHEREAS, Maine’s Constitution and statutes require reassessment of properties which has resulted in some long-term owners incurring substantial and unexpected increases in property taxes, with newer homeowners also experiencing significant hikes due to shifts in the property tax burden; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has the sole power to enact changes in the property tax system, to enact other measures to reduce reliance on property taxes as a revenue source and, if appropriate, to submit Constitutional amendments to the voters;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Town Council of the Town of Windham calls upon the legislative delegation, **Senator Timothy Nangle, and Representatives Barbara Bagshaw and Jane Pringle** to work toward a more fair and equitable system of real property taxation, as well as other measures to reduce property tax burden which may include but is not limited to the following:

1. Substantially increase the Homestead Exemption, and fully fund the lost revenue reimbursement to municipalities;
2. Authorize a real property transfer tax that is paid at the time real property is sold;
3. Authorize local option taxes that allow towns to impose local sales taxes;
4. Increase the property tax fairness credit and consider additional, means-based property tax relief programs; and
5. Increase the state revenue sharing and/or revamp the formula so that communities with high values and lower tax rates are not penalized.

Town Council of the Town of Windham, Maine:

Mark Morrison, Chairman

Nicholas Kalogerakis, Vice Chairman

Jarrod Maxfield, Parliamentarian

David Nadeau

William Reiner

Brett Jones

John Henry

SEAL

Attest: Linda Morrell, CCM

Town Clerk