**Ballot Question on July 25, 2023 Election:**

*Shall the Town of Westport be allowed to assess an additional $3,000,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the operating budgets of the Town and the Public Schools for the fiscal year beginning, July 1, 2023?*

The specific wording of the ballot question is determined by law.

**Explanation of the Ballot Question**

The ballot question on the July 25th election asks for a yes or no vote for a $3 million override.  A yes vote would allow for a $3 million addition to the Property Tax Levy Limit beginning July 1, 2023.

**Board of Selectmen Plan**

The Town Administration at this time is proposing to assess and utilize this $3 million override in increments of $1 million per year over 3 fiscal years in budgets presented to and approved by voters at Town Meeting.

Approval of Article 6 of the May 2, 2023 Town Meeting already provided a $1 million override budget allocation for FY2024.

**Reasons**

·        The Town needs the override to begin to address the continuing imbalance in the Town’s finances because of insufficient revenues to meet needed expenditures.

·        By phasing the override over 3 years, the property tax rate will increase more gradually. The average tax on residences will increase $110 per year over 3 years rather than as a $330 one time increase in FY2024.

·        Town meeting will be given the opportunity to weigh in each year as it did this year on the appropriation and use of the override funds.