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## VOTER INFORMATION

### September 6, 2022 Special Town Election

#### BALLOT QUESTION

**Question 1:** Shall the Town of Concord be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay the Town's allocable share of the bond issued by the Concord-Carlisle Regional School District for improvements including the design and reconstruction of the High School access road?

#### SUMMARY

In 1980 Massachusetts voters adopted a referendum that became G.L. Chapter 59, Section 21C, but is more commonly known as "Proposition 2 ½". Proposition 2 ½ limits the total amount of money that a Town can raise through taxes, but it allows voters to exempt from those limits the amount of money needed to pay debt services expenses (meaning principal and interest on a loan) for a specific project. This process is called a "Debt Exclusion", which is a temporary tax levy for a specific purpose; it is different from an "Override" which is a permanent increase in the tax levy limit itself.

The present question seeks to exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2 ½ the amounts required to pay for the bonds to be issued in order to renovate the existing access road as well as the sidewalk and associated lighting to Concord Carlisle High School. This bond authorization is for \$853,665, but the actual amount to be raised will only include the Town of Concord's share of the project, which will be calculated annually and is estimated to be \$660,822 in total principal plus interest, with the Town of Carlisle paying the rest.

The project was approved for authorization under Article 22 by Annual Town Meeting on May 1, 2022, subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town on the ballot question.

A **"yes" vote** will allow the Town to raise, through taxes, an additional amount estimated as \$660,822 plus interest above the Proposition 2 1/2 % levy limit in order to fund Concord's portion of the design and reconstruction of the Concord- Carlisle High School access road.

A **"no" vote** would not allow the Town to raise, through taxes, an additional amount estimated as \$660,822 plus interest over the Proposition levy limit to fund reconstruction of the Concord- Carlisle High School access road and would mean that the road may not be up for renovation again until the next

Town Meeting, when the Town could either allocate money under the borrowing limit to the road, or once again vote to add this question to the ballot.

## ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST

### Argument For

The access road currently has a pavement condition index (PCI) rating of 40-55, which is considered “poor” by most civil engineers. Given the young age of Concord Carlisle High School, and the significant use by students and members of the Concord and Carlisle communities, improving the access road is important to preserve safe, efficient access to the school.

### Argument Against

The access road remains usable, if not in ideal shape. With construction and raw material costs at an all-time high, voters could consider whether this is the appropriate time to make this improvement.

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## VOTER RESOURCES:

**New Resident?** Register to vote by 8/27/2022: online: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>; in person: the Town Clerk’s Office will be open until 5:00pm on 8/27/2022, or by mail: 22 Monument Square, Concord, MA 01742. Questions: contact us: [townclerk@concordma.gov](mailto:townclerk@concordma.gov) | phone: 978-318-3080.

**Haven’t registered to vote by mail or absentee?** The deadline to apply to receive your ballot by mail is 8/29/2022. If you registered for ballots for all elections this year, you will be mailed a ballot for this Special Town Election.

Find forms and information online: [www.concordma.gov/vote](http://www.concordma.gov/vote)

### Early Voting at the Town House, 22 Monument Square:

Saturday	August 27	10:30am – 4:30pm
Monday	August 29	8:30am – 4:30pm
Tuesday	August 30	8:30am – 4:30pm
Wednesday	August 31	8:30am – 4:30pm
Thursday	September 1	8:30am – 4:30pm
Friday	September 2	8:30am – 12:30pm

### Election Day Polling Hours: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Polling locations:

Precinct	House of Representative District	Location
1	14 <sup>th</sup> Middlesex	141 Keyes Rd
2	14 <sup>th</sup> Middlesex	1276 Main St (Harvey Wheeler Community Ctr)
3	13 <sup>th</sup> Middlesex (new in 2022)	1276 Main St (Harvey Wheeler Community Ctr)
4	13 <sup>th</sup> Middlesex (new in 2022)	90 Stow St (Hunt Recreation Center)
5	14 <sup>th</sup> Middlesex	90 Stow St (Hunt Recreation Center)