

TOWN MEETING DAY 2014

WHAT WAS PROPOSED?

- Average budget increase 3.02%
- Average education spending increases 3.01%
- 57% of budgets were under 3%
- 24% proposed budget increases greater than 10%
- 15 towns proposed budget increases above the excess spending level (3 defeated)

WHAT HAPPENED?

- 253 budgets acted upon
 - 217 passed
 - 1 postponed
 - 35 defeated

WHAT WAS THE NATURE OF THE 35 DEFEATS?

| | Budgets | Increases in: Education Spending | \$/Equalized Pupil |
|-----------|---------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Under 3% | 14 | 8 | 7 |
| 3%-4.99% | 11 | 9 | 7 |
| 5%-8.5% | 1 | 10 | 11 |
| Over 8.5% | 9 | 8 | 10 |

See spreadsheet of districts.

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

- 85% of districts passed their budget—support for education remains strong in Vermont.
- Voters are paying attention—the potential for a budget defeat is part of the process.
- Budget defeats were higher than normal. People are clearly not happy with increased property tax rates.
- Two concerns--
 - Local per pupil spending
 - A system which can end up with tax rates much higher than budget increases or even per pupil spending increases.
- Need to continue to address spending **and** tax policy



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**2014 BUDGET VOTE STATUS REPORT
THROUGH TOWN MEETING DAY – MARCH 4, 2014**

Unofficial Results

Budgets Approved through Town Meeting Day (217)

Budgets Passed with Cuts (5) (Included in the total above)

Bridgewater (cut \$42,746) *Wilmington (\$19,671-Resource Officer)
Halifax (cut \$1,500) *Whitingham (\$24,429-Resource Officer)
Hyde Park (cut to level fund)

Budgets Passed with Increases (1) (Included in the total above)

Whiting (added \$26,800)

One Defeat As of Town Meeting Day (35)

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| *Alburgh | *Ferrisburgh | Plymouth |
| *Barre City | *Georgia | *Poultney |
| *Bennington ID | *Grand Isle | Reading |
| *Blue Mountain USD | *Hardwick | *Rutland City |
| *Brandon | *Holland | *St. Johnsbury |
| *Burlington | *Leland & Gray UMHSD #34 | Stannard |
| *Colchester | *Middletown Springs | *Underhill ID |
| *Currier Mem. USD #23 | *Miller's Run USD#37 | *Underhill Town |
| *Danby | *Milton | *Vergennes UHSD #5 |
| Elmore | *Mississquoi UHSD #7 | *Vernon |
| *Fairfax | *Montpelier | *Westford |
| *Fairfield | *Mt. Mansfield USD #15 | |

Budgets Scheduled to be Voted at a Later Date (19)

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Montgomery (3/10) | Ludlow (4/7) | *Newbury (5/1) |
| Orleans ID (3/11) | *Essex Jct. ID (4/8) | Westmore (5/1) |
| Lakeview USD #43 (3/14) | *Union HS #46 (4/8) | U-36 Corinth (5/5) |
| Enosburg Falls ID (3/18) | *Essex Town (4/8) | Bradford (5/21) |
| Rivendell Interstate (3/18) | Middlebury ID (4/9) | |
| Brattleboro (3/23) | *Rochester (4/14) | |
| Barton (3/25) | *Hazen UHSD #26 (4/24) | |
| *Oxbow UHSD #30 (3/25) | | |

Budgets Vote Postponed to a Later Date (1)

Bethel

*Vote by Australian Ballot

(Compiled by the Vermont Superintendents Association)

School Budget Defeats (35)
(As of Town Meeting Day, March 4, 2014)

- *Alburgh
- *Barre City
- *Bennington ID
- *Blue Mountain USD #21
- *Brandon
- *Burlington
- *Colchester
- *Currier Memorial USD #23
- *Danby
- Elmore
- *Fairfax
- *Fairfield
- *Ferrisburgh
- *Georgia
- *Grand Isle
- *Hardwick
- *Holland
- *Leland & Gray UMHSD #34
- *Middletown Springs
- *Millers Run USD #
- *Milton
- *Mississquoi UHSD #7
- *Montpelier
- *Mt. Mansfield USD #15
- Plymouth
- *Poultney
- Reading
- *Rutland City
- *St. Johnsbury
- Stannard
- *Underhill ID
- *Underhill Town
- *Vergennes UHSD #5
- *Vernon
- *Westford

* Vote by Australian Ballot

Defeated Budgets Town Meeting 2014

| Town/Union School | 2015 Exp | 2015 Ed Spend | FY15 vs FY14 | | Eq Pdp | \$/Eq Pdp | 2014 Exp | 2014 Ed Spend | | Eq Pdp | \$/Eq Pdp | Change \$/Eq Pdp | % change \$/per Eq Pdp |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|------------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------------|--------------|----------|-----------|------------------|------------------------|
| | | | Expense | W/Ed Spend | | | | FY15 vs FY14 | FY15 vs FY14 | | | | |
| T195 Stannard | T195T195 35 | 605,253 | 541,258 | 19.37% | 37.07% | 26.20 | 20,653.70 | 507,022 | 394,880 | 23.26 | 16,994.09 | 3,674.62 | 21.64% |
| T156 Plymouth | T156T156 63 | 1,028,063 | 896,330 | 32.72% | 33.66% | 47.73 | 18,779.17 | 774,594 | 670,627 | 49.46 | 13,558.98 | 5,220.20 | 38.50% |
| T163 Reading | T163T163 51 | 1,093,988 | 894,455 | 21.06% | 21.69% | 48.82 | 18,284.04 | 903,693 | 735,042 | 39.84 | 18,449.85 | (168.81) | (0.90%) |
| T084 Grand Isle | T084T084 24 | 5,243,181 | 4,500,810 | 4.13% | 17.31% | 303.45 | 14,848.81 | 5,035,232 | 3,836,655 | 309.64 | 12,390.70 | 2,458.11 | 19.82% |
| T067 Elmore | T067T067 26 | 2,187,300 | 1,720,125 | 15.00% | 15.31% | 113.80 | 15,115.33 | 1,901,950 | 1,491,675 | 115.74 | 12,888.15 | 2,227.18 | 17.28% |
| U037 Mt. Mansfield USD | U037U037 38 | 3,809,180 | 3,167,609 | 12.23% | 13.42% | 208.51 | 15,624.55 | 3,423,192 | 2,792,442 | 216.39 | 12,904.61 | 2,728.94 | 21.15% |
| T125 Middletown Springs | T125T125 05 | 2,299,728 | 1,910,807 | 15.28% | 12.79% | 118.75 | 16,091.01 | 1,994,889 | 1,694,167 | 112.20 | 15,099.53 | 991.48 | 6.57% |
| U005 Vergennes UHSD | U005U005 02 | 10,486,906 | 9,168,545 | 2.42% | 9.32% | 600.42 | 15,270.22 | 10,239,389 | 8,386,632 | 621.14 | 13,502.00 | 1,768.22 | 13.10% |
| T179 St. Johnsbury | T179T179 11 | 17,787,809 | 13,408,101 | 17.86% | 8.47% | 1,083.89 | 12,370.35 | 15,092,529 | 12,360,876 | 1,070.42 | 11,547.89 | 822.66 | 7.12% |
| T076 Ferrisburgh | T076T076 02 | 3,650,122 | 3,088,694 | 10.15% | 7.90% | 201.63 | 15,368.22 | 3,313,721 | 2,871,812 | 203.69 | 14,098.93 | 1,289.28 | 9.00% |
| T003 Alburt | T003T003 24 | 5,330,925 | 4,162,481 | 5.23% | 6.37% | 303.53 | 13,713.57 | 5,066,193 | 3,913,169 | 287.56 | 13,150.96 | 562.72 | 4.28% |
| U023 Currier Memorial USD | U023U023 06 | 1,808,563 | 1,398,292 | 61.23% | 61.23% | 93.19 | 15,004.74 | 1,704,942 | 1,317,647 | 96.19 | 13,658.38 | 1,305.96 | 9.54% |
| T211 Underhill ID | T211T211 12 | 1,792,444 | 1,594,646 | (0.03%) | 6.02% | 100.03 | 15,941.68 | 1,792,981 | 1,504,154 | 103.38 | 14,549.76 | 1,381.92 | 9.57% |
| U017 Mt. Mansfield USD | U017U017 12 | 27,805,044 | 23,581,495 | 2.32% | 5.73% | 1,893.85 | 13,921.83 | 27,174,395 | 22,303,142 | 1,724.24 | 12,935.06 | 968.78 | 7.63% |
| U007 Missisquoi Valley UHSD | U007U007 21 | 15,718,230 | 12,339,511 | 3.29% | 5.59% | 941.86 | 13,101.22 | 15,217,492 | 11,687,030 | 972.46 | 12,018.01 | 1,083.21 | 9.01% |
| T214 Vernon | T214T214 48 | 4,401,269 | 3,648,207 | 2.55% | 5.49% | 231.89 | 15,732.49 | 4,292,785 | 3,458,420 | 232.32 | 14,866.45 | 846.04 | 5.69% |
| T129 Montpelier | T129T129 45 | 17,985,069 | 14,570,689 | 3.60% | 5.17% | 987.95 | 14,748.41 | 17,359,522 | 13,854,880 | 997.09 | 13,865.32 | 853.09 | 6.14% |
| T071 Fairfax | T071T071 22 | 12,715,675 | 9,403,196 | 4.90% | 4.94% | 756.87 | 12,423.79 | 12,121,197 | 8,960,278 | 744.89 | 12,032.23 | 391.57 | 3.25% |
| T050 Colchester | T050T050 07 | 36,008,112 | 29,055,747 | 4.38% | 4.65% | 2,140.71 | 13,572.85 | 34,497,846 | 27,763,762 | 2,120.21 | 13,064.82 | 478.13 | 3.66% |
| U034 Leland & Gray UHSD | U034U034 46 | 6,999,318 | 5,060,481 | 2.76% | 3.97% | 316.38 | 16,058.16 | 6,811,076 | 4,886,602 | 318.43 | 15,345.92 | 712.24 | 4.64% |
| T232 Westford | T232T232 13 | 5,196,039 | 4,560,287 | 2.92% | 3.80% | 318.52 | 14,317.11 | 5,048,777 | 4,393,512 | 330.07 | 13,310.85 | 1,008.26 | 7.56% |
| T092 Hardwick | T092T092 35 | 4,273,136 | 3,561,757 | (2.67%) | 3.80% | 252.49 | 14,106.53 | 4,390,305 | 3,431,520 | 281.32 | 13,131.49 | 978.04 | 7.43% |
| T126 Milton ID | T126T126 10 | 26,202,487 | 22,504,591 | 4.83% | 3.78% | 1,639.70 | 13,724.82 | 24,994,915 | 21,685,107 | 1,661.99 | 13,047.68 | 677.15 | 5.19% |
| T037 Burlington | T037T037 15 | 77,656,041 | 56,377,510 | 3.11% | 3.70% | 4,104.30 | 13,736.21 | 75,310,444 | 54,364,015 | 4,080.79 | 13,321.98 | 414.27 | 3.11% |
| T072 Fairfield | T072T072 23 | 5,491,179 | 4,679,774 | 0.62% | 3.30% | 329.03 | 14,222.94 | 5,457,513 | 4,530,154 | 340.96 | 13,286.47 | 936.47 | 7.05% |
| U024 Blue Mountain USD | U024U024 57 | 8,241,782 | 6,289,121 | 0.10% | 2.95% | 408.75 | 13,380.23 | 7,486,062 | 6,106,939 | 419.53 | 14,556.82 | 829.61 | 5.70% |
| T158 Poutney | T158T158 38 | 7,426,839 | 5,981,148 | 2.74% | 2.96% | 408.29 | 14,849.26 | 7,228,638 | 5,809,293 | 407.43 | 14,258.38 | 390.88 | 2.74% |
| T056 Danby | T056T056 06 | 2,137,274 | 1,766,006 | 1.74% | 1.45% | 121.48 | 14,702.06 | 2,100,625 | 1,760,438 | 123.70 | 14,231.51 | 470.55 | 3.30% |
| T026 Brandon | T026T026 36 | 5,356,775 | 4,343,749 | 2.03% | 2.94% | 344.82 | 12,604.46 | 5,250,119 | 4,219,831 | 338.34 | 12,472.16 | 132.30 | 1.06% |
| T079 Georgia | T079T079 22 | 13,037,426 | 11,342,911 | 3.61% | 2.91% | 862.43 | 13,152.27 | 12,582,722 | 11,022,292 | 874.05 | 12,610.60 | 541.67 | 4.30% |
| T015 Bennington ID | T015T015 05 | 13,045,076 | 10,223,875 | 4.47% | 2.72% | 852.78 | 11,988.88 | 12,486,656 | 9,953,320 | 844.44 | 11,786.89 | 201.99 | 1.71% |
| T097 Holland | T097T097 31 | 1,107,500 | 750,000 | 2.72% | 2.51% | 63.09 | 11,887.78 | 1,078,131 | 731,617 | 65.38 | 11,190.23 | 697.55 | 6.23% |
| T173 Rutland City | T173T173 30 | 48,672,312 | 29,069,611 | 2.95% | 0.96% | 2,182.79 | 13,317.64 | 47,277,683 | 28,793,102 | 2,220.55 | 12,998.52 | 409.12 | 3.17% |
| T011 Barre City | T011T011 61 | 12,567,842 | 10,348,775 | 3.25% | 0.43% | 895.16 | 11,560.81 | 12,172,027 | 10,304,675 | 898.04 | 11,474.63 | 86.18 | 0.75% |
| T212 Underhill Town | T212T212 12 | 2,407,881 | 1,972,973 | (3.25%) | (6.66%) | 144.37 | 13,666.09 | 2,488,717 | 2,113,809 | 149.58 | 14,130.68 | (464.60) | (3.29%) |

THROUGH TOWN MEETING DAY - MARCH 4, 2014

| | |
|---|----------|
| Budgets passed (5 w/cuts - 1 w/\$added) | 217 |
| Budgets defeated | 35 |
| Scheduled to Vote at a later date | 19 |
| Postponed to later date | <u>1</u> |
| | 272 |

BUDGET ACTION COMPARISONS

| | | |
|------|---|-----------|
| 2014 | Budget Defeats (As of Town Meeting Day) | 35 |
| | Budgets passed with cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 5 |
| | Budgets passed with increase (as of Town Meeting Day) | 1 |
| 2013 | Budget defeats (entire year) | 22 |
| | Budget cuts/additions (entire year) | 7 |
| | Budget defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 16 |
| | Budgets passed with cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 2 |
| | Budgets passed with money added (as of Town Meeting Day) | 10 |
| | Budgets subject to Two-Vote - passed (as of Town Meeting Day) | 15 |
| | Budget subject to Two-Vote - defeated (as of Town Meeting Day) | 1 |
| | Budgets subject to Two-Vote -passed 1st vote, defeated 2nd vote (as of Town Meeting Day) | 4 |
| 2012 | Budget defeats (entire year) | 9 |
| | Budget cuts (entire year) | 2 |
| | Budget Defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 7 |
| | Budgets passed with cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 2 |
| | Budget passed with money added (as of Town Meeting Day) | 1 |
| 2011 | Budget defeats (entire year) | 4 |
| | Budget cuts (entire year) | 3 |
| | Budget Defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 3 |
| | Budgets passed with cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 3 |
| | Budget votes deferred (as of Town Meeting Day) | 2 |
| 2010 | Budget defeats (entire year) | 16 |
| | Budget cuts (entire year) | 4 |
| | Budget defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 14 |
| | Budgets passed with cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 4 |
| | Budget votes deferred (as of Town Meeting Day) | 3 |
| 2009 | Budget defeats (entire year) | 23 |
| | Budget cuts (entire year) | 3 |
| | Budget defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 21 |
| | Budgets passed with cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 3 |
| | Budget votes deferred (as of Town Meeting Day) | 1 |
| 2008 | Budget defeats (entire year) | 14 |
| | Budget cuts (entire year) | 1 |
| | Budget defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 12 |
| | Budgets passed with cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 1 |
| | Budget Votes deferred (as of Town Meeting Day) | 0 |
| 2007 | Budget defeats (entire year) | 22 |
| | Budget cuts (entire year) | 3 |
| | Budget defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 17 |
| | Budgets passed with cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 3 |
| | Budget Votes deferred (as of Town Meeting Day) | 0 |
| 2006 | Budget defeats (entire year) | 21 |
| | Budget cuts (entire year) | 1 |
| | Budget defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 17 |
| | Budget cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 1 |
| | Budget Votes deferred (as of Town Meeting Day) | 0 |

BUDGET ACTION COMPARISONS (CONTINUED)

| | | |
|------|---|-----------|
| 2005 | Budget defeats (entire year) | 22 |
| | Budget cuts (entire year) | 6 |
| | Budget defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 19 |
| | Budget cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 6 |
| | Budget Votes deferred (as of Town Meeting Day) | 1 |
| 2004 | Budget defeats (entire year) | 8 |
| | Budget cuts (entire year) | 1 |
| | Budget defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 6 |
| | Budget cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 1 |
| | Budget Votes deferred (as of Town Meeting Day) | 0 |
| 2003 | Budget defeats (entire year) | 51 |
| | Budget cuts (entire year) | 5 |
| | Budget defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 42 |
| | Budget cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 3 |
| | Budget Votes deferred (as of Town Meeting Day) | 2 |
| 2002 | Budget defeats (entire year) | 26 |
| | Budget cuts (entire year) | 11 |
| | Budget defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 22 |
| | Budget cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 11 |
| | Budget Votes deferred (as of Town Meeting Day) | 2 |
| 2001 | Budget defeats (entire year) | 18 |
| | Budget cuts (entire year) | 5 |
| | Budget defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 14 |
| | Budget cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 3 |
| | Budget Votes deferred (as of Town Meeting Day) | 26 |
| 2000 | Budget defeats (entire year) | 11 |
| | Budget cuts (entire year) | 2 |
| | Budget defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 7 |
| | Budget cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 2 |
| | Budget votes deferred (as of Town Meeting Day) | 2 |
| 1999 | Budget defeats (entire year) | 11 |
| | Budget cuts (entire year) | 5 |
| | Budget defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 8 |
| | Budget cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 4 |
| | Budget votes deferred (as of Town Meeting Day) | 4 |
| 1998 | Budget defeats (entire year) | 15 |
| | Budget cuts (entire year) | 9 |
| | Budget defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 12 |
| | Budget cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 6 |
| | Budget votes deferred (as of Town Meeting Day) | 14 |
| 1997 | Budget defeats (entire year) | 34 |
| | Budget cuts (entire year) | 3 |
| | Budget defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 27 |
| | Budget cuts (as of Town meeting Day) | 1 |
| | Budget votes deferred (as of Town Meeting Day) | 4 |
| 1996 | Budget defeats (entire year) | 28 |
| | Budget cuts (entire year) (that we know of) | 9 |
| | Budget defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 17 |
| | Budget cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 9 |
| | Budget votes deferred (as of Town Meeting Day) | 2 |

BUDGET ACTION COMPARISONS (CONTINUED)

| | | |
|--------|---|-----------|
| 1995 | Budget defeats (entire year) | 40 |
| | Budget cuts (entire year) | 7 |
| | Budget defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 22 |
| | Budget cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 6 |
| | Budget votes deferred (as of Town Meeting Day) | 4 |
| 1994** | Budget defeats (entire year) | ? |
| | Budget cuts (entire year) | ? |
| | Budget defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 17 |
| | Budget cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 5 |
| 1993 | Budget defeats (entire year) | 23 |
| | Budget cuts (entire year) | 11 |
| | Budget defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 18 |
| | Budget cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 8 |
| 1992 | Budget defeats (entire year) | 36 |
| | Budget cuts (entire year) | 23 |
| | Budget defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 26 |
| | Budget cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 18 |
| 1991 | Budget defeats (entire year) | 41 |
| | Budget cuts (entire year) | 13 |
| | Budget defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 31 |
| | Budget cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 10 |
| 1990 | Budget defeats (entire year) | 39 |
| | Budget cuts (entire year) | 18 |
| | Budget defeats (as of Town Meeting Day) | 22 |
| | Budget cuts (as of Town Meeting Day) | 11 |

**Did not collect data beyond Town Meeting Day in 1994

Unofficial results tabulated by the Vermont Superintendents Association