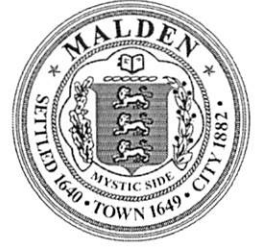


Carol Ann Desiderio, City Clerk
cdesiderio@cityofmalden.org
www.cityofmalden.org

City of Malden

Massachusetts

Malden City Clerk
215 Pleasant Street, Room 220
Malden, Massachusetts 02148



Phone 781-397-7116
Fax 781-388-0610

DATE: September 30, 2025

PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-IN SHEET

<u>Name: (Print)</u>	<u>Address or Street & City:</u>	<u>Topic or Paper Number</u>
1. <u>Nail Kinson 11 Spencer St</u>	<u>11 Spencer St</u>	<u>override</u>
2. <u>Lara Thompson 53 Playstead Rd</u>	<u>53 Playstead Rd</u>	<u>override</u>
3. _____	_____	_____
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15. _____	_____	_____

**** Two (2) minute limit per speaker****

Morgan Hunte

From: Carol Ann Desiderio
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 8:40 AM
To: Morgan Hunte
Subject: Fw: Public Comment - Support of Proposed Tax Override Docket 363-25

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Tom Endicott <~~redacted~~@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 6:50 PM
To: Carol Ann Desiderio <cdesiderio@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>
Subject: Public Comment - Support of Proposed Tax Override Docket 363-25

To the Members of the City Council,

I am a proud lifelong resident of Malden, and I am writing in support of the proposed tax override (docket 363-25).

It is imperative that the city continue to fund public services at their current level, especially continued support of the library, public works department, and the Malden public school system.

The ongoing services provided by the city to its citizens should be a priority, especially in times of economic uncertainty.

Thank you,
Tom Endicott
201 Columbia St

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Morgan Hunte

From: Carol Ann Desiderio
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 8:39 AM
To: Morgan Hunte
Subject: Fw: In favor of tax override

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Brian St. Marie <brianstmarie@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 6:34 PM
To: Carol Ann Desiderio <cdesiderio@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>
Subject: In favor of tax override

Hi, just emailing to say we support the tax override at 21 Woodland Rd.

We want Malden to be the best it can be and we're well aware that doesn't come for free.

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Morgan Hunte

From: Morgan Hunte
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 2:15 PM
To: Morgan Hunte
Subject: RE: Proposed override

From: Ted Brookings <~~ted.brookings~~@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 11:47 AM
To: Morgan Hunte <mhunte@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>
Subject: Re: Proposed override

Thanks for letting me know! It's:
11 Wyoming Ave, Malden, MA 02148

On Tue, Sep 30, 2025 at 11:44 AM Morgan Hunte <mhunte@cityofmalden.org> wrote:

Good morning, Ted,

For your public comment to be read into the record during this evening's meeting you must provide your street address as well.

Best,

Morgan Hunte (She/Her)

Assistant City Clerk,

From: Carol Ann Desiderio <cdesiderio@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 9:00 AM
To: Morgan Hunte <mhunte@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>
Subject: Fw: Proposed override

From: Ted Brookings <~~ted.brookings~~@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 8:59 AM
To: Carol Ann Desiderio <cdesiderio@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>
Subject: Proposed override

I'm writing to express support for the proposed Prop 2.5 override. I am a homeowner in Malden and I strongly support stabilizing the city finances and maintaining city services. Paying my fair share of taxes is a small thing to be asked in return.

-Theodore Brookings

Morgan Hunte

From: Carol Ann Desiderio
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 1:16 PM
To: Morgan Hunte
Subject: Fw: Prop 2.5 Override

From: Shawn Bonneau <~~shawn.bonneau~~@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 9:59 AM
To: Carol Ann Desiderio <cdesiderio@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>
Subject: Prop 2.5 Override

Regarding docket # 363-25, I am strongly in favor of the override. We have a civic duty to fund our city services, and there's no viable alternative to this override. We can no longer kick the can down the road via temporary one time funds/reserves. Making up this difference via commercial tax is not realistic. First of all that would take years to accomplish even if it was possible, and secondly we can't mimic Cambridge's situation because we have nothing close to MIT/Harvard to anchor a Kendall Square level commercial district.

Finally to address a strawman that I know is being raised on this subject, real estate taxes have basically nothing to do with Malden's affordability. That issue lies with the regional supply shortage, not taxes. Unlike the majority of the council, I am of the age where my peer group is buying houses now (as opposed to 25+ years ago). None of these people are being scared off of home ownership by a few thousand dollars in annual real estate tax, it is the monthly principal/interest that is 5+ times higher. Malden's residential exemption makes the taxes here very cheap and a couple hundred dollars more a year from this override would not change that.

Shawn Bonneau
47 Perkins Ave (Ward 1)

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Morgan Hunte

From: Carol Ann Desiderio
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 1:45 PM
To: Morgan Hunte
Subject: Fw: Yes to Prop 2.5 Override

From: Samantha LeBlanc <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 1:37 PM
To: Carol Ann Desiderio <cdesiderio@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>
Subject: Yes to Prop 2.5 Override

Samantha LeBlanc
30 Daniels St

I'm a condo owner as of last year. I'm okay with a Prop 2.5 override to help fund schools and other important aspects of the city. I didn't get the residential tax exemption yet, but the increase seems to be negligible in my case - like about \$15 a month pre- discount. When I get my discount, the savings from community electricity will probably negate that.

Some ideas I have to help increase funding is to lower parking minimums. We could fit in at least one more commercial building at each shopping plaza - Stop n Shop, Broadway, Town Line.

This was a quick email, sorry.

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I want to express my support of a Prop 2 1/2 override.

Even at the simplest, most surface level look at finances at a local level we can think about how inflation (expenses) has varied from 3 to 7 percent increase since 2021. Prop 2 1/2 only allows a 2.5% increase in property tax (revenue) increases each year. The city's revenue has been held back out of step with our expenses. To reduce expenses we would be cutting current service levels, taking away from the resources our city offers our residents. Property taxes contribute about half of the revenue base of our city based on my reading of the budget and therefore even a small percentage increase can provide dramatic relief to our budget constraints.

I am happy and proud to invest more in my community through the taxes I pay. It is one of the most passive ways we can all help support each other and our city. I encourage everyone to know how much they currently pay in property taxes and I encourage the City Council to prioritize communication about how much each homeowner's taxes will change. I think many people would be relieved and less opposed if they had some idea what the override would mean for them personally. I feel the unknown is making many residents understandably upset and afraid. I know this news has just come out, but I would love to see/know how to find some resources on the city of Malden website about what the proposed "levy limit override" means for the next fiscal year, and the years beyond as well. I look forward to learning more details and appreciate how hard it must have been to come forward with this proposal.

Allison Matthews
105 Elm St Malden

RECEIVED
2025 JUL 30 PM 02:42
CITY OF MALDEN
MALDEN, MASS.

Morgan Hunte

From: Carol Ann Desiderio
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 3:32 PM
To: Morgan Hunte
Subject: FW: Public Comment

From: Courtney Dutra <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 3:24 PM
To: Carol Ann Desiderio <cdesiderio@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>
Subject: Public Comment

Hi,

I support Malden scheduling a special election to vote on a tax override. Many neighboring cities have successfully passed overrides in recent years, and I believe it's time for Malden to do the same. The proposed 5% increase in property taxes (\$21 a month on my property) strikes me as a reasonable step to maintain level funding for essential city services, staffing, and our schools. Malden has already committed to funding our share of the Wakefield Vocational school construction and of honoring teacher union contracts. We can't go back. This override will allow our city to progress and remain competitive. I support the conversation and the vote.

Thank you,

Courtney Dutra
26 Huntley St.
Malden

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Morgan Hunte

From: Carol Ann Desiderio
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 1:17 PM
To: Morgan Hunte
Subject: Fw: PROP 2 1/2-AGAINST

From: Martha North <[REDACTED]@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 12:19 PM
To: Carol Ann Desiderio <cdesiderio@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>
Subject: PROP 2 1/2-AGAINST

I am DEFINITELY AGAINST a passing or even a consideration of Prop 2 1/2.

Martha North
50 Presley Street
Malden
Sent from my iPhone

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https://gdsprotect.cloud-protect.net/app/report_spam.php?mod_id=11&mod_option=logitem&report=1&type=easyspam&k=k1&payload=53616c7465645f5f0ab952537a54a895fb0c7884d66ec24b9b2fba24c5b610d63516675e82bbf396ff074c8f624cb2aaed1b70b3fad83cf0c9ac61f94e25a67187ed58a37846ac3eff8713049f41f2b84016782822a31786a77756a95e225b2ae88ea01d58d77a53524c5a7dc5cd0f6d640b08c43583a9414e69bf1b246ee0d62027a81382b958a5f5af5c73e8aff44b6a03ae89e9ef6abbcb81b49adfddb6382

Morgan Hunte

From: Carol Ann Desiderio
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 1:56 PM
To: Morgan Hunte
Subject: Fw: Public Comment - Opposition to Proposed Tax Override - Docket # 363-25

From: Marissa Babin <marissababin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 1:51 PM
To: Carol Ann Desiderio <cdesiderio@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>
Subject: Public Comment - Opposition to Proposed Tax Override - Docket # 363-25

Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the tax override proposed in City Council file # 363-25.

I have owned a house in Malden for 13 years and am proud to call Malden home. I work full time at a grocery store and live by myself. In order to make ends meet, I need to be frugal and budget my money carefully. As someone on the autism spectrum, I face a lot of challenges. But owning a home and being financially self-sufficient are important to me, so I have worked hard and made sacrifices in order to accomplish these goals.

With the prices of so many things going up, making ends meet is increasingly difficult for me and for other hardworking people. An increase in my property taxes is the last thing that I need. Personally, I will always prefer that government at all levels cut spending rather than raising taxes. No government program or service is more important to me than keeping as much of my own hard-earned money as possible. Just as I have had to make difficult decisions in order to cut back on my expenses and stay within my means, I think that the City of Malden should do the same, rather than asking hardworking people like me to contribute more.

I strongly urge you to vote against the proposed tax override.

Sincerely,

Marissa Babin
662 Highland Ave
Malden

This email has been scanned for spam and viruses by Proofpoint Essentials. Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed tax override. Residents in our city, homeowners and renters, are already facing steep increases in the cost of living. Asking taxpayers for even more money without demonstrating fiscal responsibility is not only unfair, it is irresponsible governance.

The City has not clearly shown what steps have been taken to avoid the need for an override. Taxpayers deserve evidence that every option to cut costs and reprioritize spending has been exhausted. Without this, an override sends a troubling message that instead of addressing inefficiencies or tightening budgets, the City will simply turn to residents for more revenue whenever it encounters financial challenges.

What is needed is not another tax increase but a clear, strategic plan for the City's finances and priorities. Residents deserve to see a roadmap that explains how current resources are being managed, how future needs will be addressed, and what specific measures will be taken to keep spending under control. A tax override without such a plan is premature and short-sighted.

Our community is full of hardworking people who sacrifice to pay their mortgages or rent, cover rising utility bills, and put food on the table. For many, even the smallest tax increase can mean a meal not eaten, a prescription not filled, or a bill left unpaid. These are not hypothetical hardships, they are the reality for many of our neighbors.

Before placing more weight on the backs of residents, City leadership must show that it is capable of managing existing funds responsibly and charting a long-term plan that balances needs with sustainability.

I urge you to reject the proposed tax override. Instead, commit to fiscal discipline, transparency, and the development of a comprehensive strategic plan that puts residents first and ensures the City lives within its means.

Bill Spadafora Jr.

37 Prospect St, Malden

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK
MAY 12 2017
MAY 12 2017

Morgan Hunte

From: Carol Ann Desiderio
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 3:32 PM
To: Morgan Hunte
Subject: FW: Public Comment

From: Ann Warren <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 3:26 PM
To: Carol Ann Desiderio <cdesiderio@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>
Subject: Public Comment

Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed tax override proposed in City Council file # 363-25. Before asking homeowners and renters to shoulder yet another financial burden, the City must first demonstrate that it has done everything possible to manage existing resources responsibly.

It is unacceptable to request an override without first proving that every effort has been made to cut unnecessary spending, reprioritize budgets, and operate within the City's means.

How can the City guarantee that any additional tax revenue will be spent appropriately? Without a clear, enforceable plan and independent oversight, taxpayers have little confidence that new revenue will be managed any better than existing funds.

Families, seniors, and renters across our community are already struggling with rising costs. The City must prove it is willing to make difficult decisions and reduce expenses before turning to taxpayers as the solution.

I urge you to vote against the proposed tax override and instead commit to transparency, fiscal discipline, and an independent audit of the City's finances.

Yours truly, Ann Warren.

78 Rutland St. Malden, MA 02148

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Morgan Hunte

From: DENISE BALBONI-COWIE <[REDACTED]@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 3:43 PM
To: Morgan Hunte
Subject: RE: Public Comment - Opposition to Proposed Tax Override - Docket # 363-25

Sorry about that--I had no idea! The below should work

Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing to express strong opposition to the proposed tax override in City Council file #363-25. Before asking residents to bear more financial burden, the City must first show that it has managed existing resources responsibly.

To date, no clear explanation has been given as to what steps have been taken to avoid a tax increase. Taxpayers deserve transparency and accountability—not vague promises—before being asked to pay more. It is unacceptable to pursue an override without first cutting unnecessary spending and reprioritizing within current budgets.

When has the Finance Committee met with department heads to thoroughly examine spending and identify savings? Without evidence of such review, residents cannot trust that all alternatives have been explored.

Additionally, how will the City ensure that new tax revenue will serve real community needs and not discretionary council projects? Without a clear, enforceable spending plan and independent oversight, confidence in fiscal management remains low.

What's truly needed is not more taxes, but a full, independent financial audit. This would help identify inefficiencies and ensure funds are used wisely. Until that audit is completed, asking for more money is premature and unfair.

Families, seniors, and renters are already struggling with rising costs. The City must lead by example—tighten its own belt before expecting more from taxpayers.

I urge you to vote **no** on the tax override and commit instead to greater transparency, fiscal discipline, and an independent audit of City finances.

Sincerely,
Denise Balboni-Cowie
81 Newland Street
Malden
Peace, love and Aerosmith!
~~~Denise~~~

On 09/30/2025 2:49 PM EDT Morgan Hunte <mhunte@cityofmalden.org> wrote:

Good afternoon, Denise,

## Morgan Hunte

---

**From:** Morgan Hunte  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 30, 2025 4:23 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** RE: City Council Meeting 9-30-2025

Received, thank you!

**From:** Carol Ann Desiderio <cdesiderio@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 30, 2025 3:58 PM  
**To:** Morgan Hunte <mhunte@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>  
**Subject:** FW: City Council Meeting 9-30-2025

**From:** Jim Sumner <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 30, 2025 3:47 PM  
**To:** Carol Ann Desiderio <cdesiderio@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting 9-30-2025

Hi Carol Ann,

Can you please add the statement below to the public comments for agenda item 363.25.

Thanks

September 30, 2025

Malden City Council

Dear Malden City Council,

I write today regarding agenda item 363,25. I want to express my strong opposition to approving a ballot question regarding a tax override. I would like to hear what budget cuts can be made before to a tax override that shifts the burden of balancing the city budget to the Malden residential taxpayers. Prop 2.5 was put in place to help property owners retain their properties without unfair and excessive tax increases. A tax increase would simply make homes in Malden less affordable for all but especially for folks with limited income.

I ask that you vote no at this time to putting forth a ballot question and holding a special election to override prop 2.5.

Sincerely

James Sumner

759 Highland Ave

Malden MA 02148