



Lamoine Board of Selectmen

606 Douglas Hwy
Lamoine, ME 04605
(207) 667-2242
town@lamoine-me.gov

Resolution of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Lamoine, Maine

in Opposition to the November Ballot Question Seeking to Modify Current State Law on Tax and Expenditure limitations on State and Local Government, more commonly known to as TABOR II

Whereas, the proposed initiative known as the “Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights II” (TABOR II) will be put to a vote in the general election on November 3rd, 2009, and

Whereas, since 2005, local governments in Maine have operated under a state law that limits the extent to which the property tax may increase in any given year and that requires the local governing body to vote on a separate article to exceed that limit at their Town Meeting; and

Whereas, the TABOR II initiative will make changes to the current spending and property taxation limits that apply to all levels of government in Maine the process by which State and local budgets are approved; and

Whereas, TABOR II will establish Fiscal Year 2010 as the baseline year for all future growth in State spending, a year where both the State General Fund and Highway Fund will experience significant revenue declines; thus locking in State spending at current depressed levels reflecting the impact of the current recession on State revenues; and

Whereas, current State spending limits are calculated on cumulative basis allowing the amount of spending that is below the limit to be carried forward to future years thus allowing some flexibility in State spending and providing an incentive to spend below statutory levels; TABOR II will base the following year’s spending level on that of the current year, thus creating a “use it or lose it incentive;” and

Whereas, at the municipal and county level, TABOR II also mandates referendum voting to approve any budget that exceeds the municipal or county property tax limit; and

Whereas, TABOR II also requires municipalities and counties to adopt a uniform budget format as developed by the State Planning Office; and

Whereas, both of these additional requirements will add costs that must be borne by local government and its citizens as a result of both significant delays in the finalization of the annual budget and costs for the additional Town Meetings, referendum voting, and Tax Anticipation Note Financing (TAN) that may be required to fund governmental operations until an approved budget is adopted; and

Whereas, TABOR II, will limit the flexibility of both the State and its local governments to react to changing conditions, community needs, and economic conditions, and undermine the authority of elected officials to make budgetary and service decisions based on information and a depth of analysis unlikely to be undertaken by the average voter; and

Whereas, TABOR II, if approved, will dramatically move state and local government in Maine in the direction of budgeting by referendum, the results of which have become apparent in those States where this has already happened; and

Whereas, TABORII threatens the quality of life not only in our community but across the state of Maine through less investment in transportation and other infrastructure, job creation, research and development, education and public health, and

Whereas, the best control of spending at the local level is through the participation of citizens during and before Town Meeting where both, as voters, they can hear both sides of an issues and cast their vote based on the information presented;

Now, therefore, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Lamoine hereby resolves:

- a) To oppose TABOR II because it is not in the best interests of the residents of the Town of Lamoine or the citizens of Maine;
- b) To work to defeat the measure by informing local voters of the potential negative impacts of TABOR II on important local services, quality of life and local control over taxes and spending, and
- c) To authorize municipal staff to participate in such activities that are deemed necessary and appropriate in the furtherance of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT

The Board of Selectmen urges all citizens to become fully informed on this proposal prior to the November election by becoming familiar with the language of the proposal and reviewing materials provided by those supporting and opposing this measure.

Signed on October 1, 2009 by:

/s/ S. Josephine Cooper, Chairman

/s/ Cynthia Donaldson

/s/ Gary McFarland

/s/ Kermit Theall