

Name: Forrest Holzapfel  
Town: Marlboro, Vermont

I have served our town as a Lister since 2002 and as Town Clerk since 2013. I am the person who stands with taxpayers trying to understand their tax bill and write the biggest check of each year. I explain carefully that for each of the last 20 years, 75 to 80% of their tax bill goes to fund education. There are numerous responses to this statement.

The School Board is always grappling with how to keep the tax rate down while still offering students the services they need. I can say that the municipal tax rate has stayed quite low, with consequences. We have considerable deferred maintenance on our municipal buildings and road equipment in the face of the dominant school tax rate. This financial conservatism is partially a philosophy to run the tightest ship possible, but after decades, this inequity is damaging. I urge the Task Force to correct the Weighting Factors to help small, rural schools who are struggling and to make these changes for those who are paying.

Thanks for listening.

Forrest