

## **2010 Annual Town Meeting**

### **Local Option Local Income Tax**

**Article 33. To determine whether the Town will vote to request the Board of Selectmen to ask our legislative representatives to file and seek passage of legislation that would permit cities and towns the option of adopting a local income tax on residents which would be collected by the state and returned to the municipality to reduce the local residential property tax rate, or take any other action relative thereto.**

**This article is proposed by the Local Option Local Income Tax Committee (LOLIT Committee) which was appointed by the Board of Selectmen to “secure enabling legislation to permit Massachusetts cities and towns to adopt a local income tax”, a recommendation of the 2005 Comprehensive Long Range Plan. The article seeks to give municipalities an option to relieve the growing property tax burden on middle and lower income homeowners. Another goal of this article is to attempt to preserve the historical diversity of our community which is threatened by ongoing increases in the property tax. Eighteen (18) other states have adopted this funding mechanism. In Massachusetts such action would require state legislative action and potentially a state constitutional amendment.**

**Approval of this article does not institute such a tax, nor does it bind the Selectmen to request enabling legislation. The motion is intended to support the Selectmen in further pursuing this funding option. No personal financial information would be released. The revenue collected would be returned to the town by the state.**