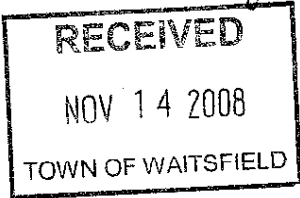


Agenda Item II.6



PO Box 9424  
South Burlington VT 05407

November 12, 2008

Chairperson, Waitsfield Select Board  
9 Bridge Street  
Waitsfield, VT 05673

Dear Select Board Chairperson:

My name is Lou Lertola and I am a resident of South Burlington. For the past six months or so, I have become a self-appointed representative of all 50% or more disabled veterans who qualify for Vermont's Property Tax Exemption.

The only purpose of this letter is to strongly encourage your Select Board to support an increase of your Town's property tax exemption from \$10,000 to \$40,000 for your four qualifying veterans. How fitting that I write this letter and make this request during the week of Veterans Day! My second request is that you put it before your voters at Town Meeting in March of 2009. I know they will support it given an opportunity to do so.

Currently, 28% of the towns and cities in Vermont have already increased their exemption to \$40,000. However, 52% of our state's communities still have only a \$10,000 exemption. That \$10,000 exemption was approved by the legislature 31 years ago in 1977. Are we still paying the property taxes of 1978? You and I know that's not the case. If our property taxes have gone up during these past 30 plus years shouldn't qualifying veterans be entitled to an increase in their exemption? It's the right and fair thing to do for those disabled veterans who served their country, state and community and asked for nothing in return.

Please support this request, explain it to your residents and put the motion before the community at Town Meeting in March 2009 and then **"LET THE PEOPLE VOTE"**.

I can be reached by phone, (802) 860-7351, if you have any questions of me. Thank you for your time and support of our veterans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lou Lertola".

Cmd Sgt Major Lou Lertola, Retired

# SAMPLE BALLOT

*Hope this helps*  
*Jr*

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
**ANNUAL CITY AND SCHOOL MEETING**  
**CITY OF SOUTH BURLINGTON, VERMONT**  
**MAY 20, 2008**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS**

- A. TO VOTE FOR a person whose name is printed on the ballot fill in the oval to the right of the name of the person. ●
- B. TO VOTE FOR a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write or stick his or her name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval to the right of the write-in line.
- C. TO VOTE IN FAVOR of the article, complete the oval to the right of the "YES."  
TO VOTE AGAINST the article, fill in the oval to the right of the word "NO."

<b>FOR CITY COUNCIL</b> <small>(Vote for not more than ONE)</small> for 3 Years <b>MARK BOUCHER</b> ○  <small>(Write-in)</small> ○	<b>FOR CITY CLERK</b> <small>(Vote for not more than ONE)</small> for 3 Years <b>DONNA S. KINVILLE</b> ○  <small>(Write-in)</small> ○	<b>FOR SCHOOL DIRECTOR</b> <small>(Vote for not more than ONE)</small> for 2 Years <b>ELIZABETH FITZGERALD</b> ○  <small>(Write-in)</small> ○
<b>FOR CITY COUNCIL</b> <small>(Vote for not more than ONE)</small> for 2 Years <b>MEAGHAN EMERY</b> ○ <b>TIM KACZMAREK</b> ○  <small>(Write-in)</small> ○	<b>FOR WATER COMMISSIONER</b> <small>(Vote for not more than ONE)</small> for 3 Years <b>PETER L. JACOB</b> ○  <small>(Write-in)</small> ○	<b>FOR SCHOOL DIRECTOR</b> <small>(Vote for not more than ONE)</small> for 3 Years <b>JANINE ALLO</b> ○ <b>ROBERT G. DIFERDINANDO</b> ○  <small>(Write-in)</small> ○

**CITY ARTICLES**

**ARTICLE II**  
**APPROVAL OF CITY BUDGET** YES ○  
NO ○  
Shall the City adopt the City Council's proposed budget for FY 2008-2009 totaling \$19,142,974.00 of which it is estimated \$9,084,353.00 will be raised by local property taxes?

**Article III**  
**Expenditure of City Sales Tax Revenues** YES ○  
NO ○  
Shall the voters allocate not more than \$724,000.00 of revenue from the City sales tax collected during the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2017 to fund a portion of the cost of salaries and benefits of six (6) firefighter/emergency medical technician personnel to be hired during FY2009, provided the City is awarded a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant from the US Department of Homeland Security, in a minimum amount of \$552,000.00, payable to the City over a period of four (4) fiscal years commencing July 1, 2008?

**Article IV**  
**Proposed Increase in Disabled Veteran's Property Tax Exemption** YES ○  
NO ○  
Shall the voters approve an increase from \$20,000 of appraised value to \$40,000 of appraised value in the property tax exemption available for a veteran of any war or a veteran who has received an American Expeditionary Medal, his or her spouse, widow, widower or child, or jointly by any combination of them, if one or more of them are receiving disability compensation for at least 50 percent disability, death compensation, dependence and indemnity compensation, or pension for disability paid through any military department or the veterans administration, all as authorized by 32 V.S.A. §3802(11)?

**SCHOOL ARTICLES**

**ARTICLE II**  
**BUDGET** YES ○  
NO ○  
Shall the voters of the City of South Burlington School District appropriate THIRTY EIGHT MILLION TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY EIGHT AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$38,250,988.00) necessary for the support of its schools for the year beginning July 1, 2008?

**ARTICLE III**  
**WOOD CHIP BOILER HEATING FACILITY** YES ○  
NO ○  
Shall the voters of the City of South Burlington School District continue to expend funds from the bond approved on May 17, 2005 to develop the Wood Chip heating facility at the South Burlington High School/Middle School property as previously approved by the voters of the City of South Burlington on December 19, 2006?