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## **Taxpayer Group Ready to Tackle Tough Issues**

Westford, Mass. – June 11, 2007 – After a year-long series of planning sessions and consultation with similar organizations, a group of Westford residents has established a proactive organization dedicated to promoting cost-effective government. Called the Westford Taxpayers Association, the group exists to benefit all Westford, Massachusetts residents and taxpayers and represents every category of taxpayer in the town. The group's website ([www.westfordtaxpayers.org](http://www.westfordtaxpayers.org)) offers relevant information to Westford taxpayers and includes a mechanism for website visitors to anonymously report abuses of taxpayer money.

"We started thinking about organizing a taxpayers association during a Proposition 2-1/2 override attempt in Westford in 2005," explained Rob Weir, communications director.

"Many people felt uncomfortable opposing the override in public. The perception seemed to be that you would become an outcast if you were against it. All the public debate was pro-override, but then it was defeated by a 2-to-1 margin at the ballot box. Clearly, there's a large 'silent majority' in town, and we'd like to serve their needs."

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Weir continued, “After talking with friends, neighbors and acquaintances around Westford, we found out that most people in town are just too busy to learn about local issues. They wanted one place to go where they could find factual information, consider various opinions, and make a decision free from the influence of special-interest groups. It’s important that people understand that we’re doing this to make a positive contribution to local government.”

The Westford Taxpayers Association’s website presents information in an easy-to-read format, with sections that include “hot topics,” “your tax dollars,” “your opinions,” and “your government.” Last month, a soft-launch version of the website yielded an enthusiastic response from Westford residents who were anxious to learn more about the organization. Many website visitors have already signed up for the group’s newsletter, and several calls have been received on the Westford Taxpayers Association’s 24-hour opinion hotline at 978-303-0200.

### **About the Westford Taxpayers Association**

The Westford Taxpayers Association is a non-partisan, all-volunteer organization dedicated to promoting cost-effective, efficient, and open government in Westford, Mass. The association exists as a private civic organization under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Service code. The Westford Taxpayers Association’s continuing efforts are made possible by voluntary contributions, which are the association’s primary source of revenue.

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