

Reasons to Vote YES on Nov. 7 Winslow School Bond #4:

A PERSONAL TAX ANALYSIS

Though not certain yet, I have heard at the Building Committee and Town Council meetings a prediction that the property tax rate will go up one mil to make the bond payments on this project. As a decimal value, that's .001. A percent is .01. A mil is one tenth of a percent.

My house is assessed at \$178,300

Minus the homestead exemption of \$20,000

Means taxable value of \$158,300

The Town's current mil rate is 16.74. (as a decimal - .01674)

Thus: $\$158,300 \times .01674 = \$2,649.94$ - my annual current tax bill

Now, if the bond payments increase property taxes by one mil the impact on me is:

$\$158,300 \times .001 = \158.30 per YEAR. That's \$13.19 per month.

If my children were entering kindergarten, this is a no-brainer. If my grandchildren were attending Winslow schools, this would be easy. In fact, my last child graduates from WHS this year. I have no grandchildren.

I am still willing to pay \$158.30 per year for my community to have excellent school facilities that do not impede the educational mission and in fact support and enhance that mission.

It is also a worthwhile investment to maintain and increase my property value - see Reason #2.

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Opinion by Tom McCowan

Who is this guy?

- Winslow homeowner since 2001; selected Winslow because of excellent schools
- Real estate lawyer in Waterville
- Father of one WHS graduate and one senior; husband of WHS teacher