

AFT-NH strongly opposes nongermane amendment 2026-0093h the Biennial Property Tax Limitation. While it is presented as a solution to high property taxes that any community can choose to adopt, the proposal undermines local control and imposes unnecessary constraints on communities that already have the tools they need to govern their budgets responsibly.

- This amendment is not needed. Once again, legislators in Concord are telling local towns, cities, school districts, and counties what they must do. By placing this on their ballots every two years.
- Cities, towns, and school districts already have the ability to place tax caps or spending caps on their ballots if local voters are interested. Concord should not be deciding what local voters want on their ballots.
- The amendment proposes a rigid formula for a tax cap that limits revenue with no regard for community needs or the ability to respond to emergency situations. If passed, it could force local towns, cities, school districts, and counties to cut back on essential services residents rely on such as police, fire, schools, and nursing homes.
- This proposal does nothing to address the real issue: the continual downshifting of state responsibilities onto local property taxpayers and a Legislature that has repeatedly reduced or eliminated other sources of state revenue to fund the state's share of these needed services.

For these reasons, AFT-NH urges the Committee to reject this amendment and protect the authority of local voters to make decisions for their own communities.