

City Council Workshop

Agenda Item #4

May 9, 2016

Introduction to Stand Up for Students

Councilor Fox has asked for the opportunity to introduce the Stand Up for Students initiative. The intent of this workshop is to introduce this item to the City Council as it has not been as publicized as much as other initiatives seeking the November ballot.

Stand Up for Students is a ballot initiative that has received the necessary signatures (over 66,000 signatures), to appear on this November's ballot. The intent of the referendum question is to increase state funding for public education for the grades of K-12 through the development of a surcharge on Maine household incomes that exceed \$200,000. Those households that made over \$200,000 would be subject to a 3 percent surcharge for any income over the threshold of \$200,000. This works out to be roughly \$30 a state income taxpayer would pay for every \$1,000 over the \$200,000 threshold.

Through the 3 percent surcharge, the organizers anticipate the initiative will generate upwards of \$157 million in additional revenue for public education here in Maine. Stand Up for Students states the initiative will bring property tax relief while increasing school funding. The intent of the funding is to be earmarked towards classroom instruction, teachers, school nurses and other critical public school personnel.

The initiative is bringing to the forefront that the State of Maine is not living up to the successful 2004 ballot initiative that requires the State of Maine to fund 55 percent of all costs associated with educating K-12 students. The current State contribution to education falls just under 50 percent.

The proposed surcharge is estimated, by the organizers, to impact 2 percent of all Maine households.

The intent is to provide an introduction to this referendum ballot question. As we move towards the election season this fall the Council may opt to support, oppose or remain silent.


City Manager