

Dawn Huntley

From: Alma Davenport <adavenport@umassd.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2025 2:52 PM
To: House Municipal Government and Housing Committee
Subject: regarding house bill 6216 - Jamestown Tax Levy

I appreciate your willingness to spend a great deal of time as a public servant.
I write as a Jamestown resident of more than 50 years and am an active member of the community.
I care very much about its history and growth.

The request sent to you from the Jamestown Town Council to permanently break the cap of an annual 4% taxation raise is, at best, very disconcerting. All of the elected candidates during the last campaign cycle pledged to lower our taxes - not raise them above the mandated 4%.

Once councilperson pledged to curb air BnBs, but then voted to approve every one that came across. Now, part of the bond issue she is pushing is for 3 million dollars for low income housing. She effectively removed many potential lower-income residences by pushing so hard for the Air BnBs.

While Financial Town Meetings are suitable for our town, they must also come with a guarantee that our individual votes will be confidential (i.e. paper ballots). What happens now is nothing short of intimidation, asking those who disagree with a proposal to either raise their hands or stand up to be counted. It does not represent a democratic form of voting, and should not be allowed.

Please feel free to contact me about this issue if you have any questions.
Thank you.

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