

Letter to the Editor, Brookline TAB, April 25, 2019

## PAX: 11-15 Years = "Crisis"; 3-Prongs = "A Plan"

Siren Song sloganeering — "walkability," "bundling," "democracy"? For May 7<sup>th</sup>'s Override, reality trumps sound-bites. Brookline also values education and carefully-debated "republican" government. PAX supports Town-Meeting's "3-Prong Plan": new Baldwin (+450!), together with Driscoll (+200) and later Pierce (+190), saying:

Seeking the perfect would be the disgraceful enemy of the desperately/shamefully-needed good. We have horrific overcrowding, victimizing innumerable kids (especially special- needs) and teachers, a stain studied for 11-15 loonngg years. Forget about finding available "walkable" space in North Brookline, where the most kids are.

230 Town Meeting Members accepted Baldwin's "imperfections" 74%-26%, epitomizing "republican" government — after years of committees-studies-debates, then about 150 pages of facts/analysis, and a 3-hour debate. Our Founders embraced elected representatives, not "direct democracy," e.g. Madison, "The [first] ... difference between a democracy and a republic [is] delegation of the government, in the latter, to a small number of citizens elected by the rest." Brookline, Massachusetts' first to replace "open" TM with elected TMM's, now faces Ben Franklin's challenge when asked "Doctor, ... have we a Republic?": "If you can keep it."

Since Dec. 13, TM's anti-Baldwin minority persists. Even some pro-Baldwin TMM's are newly-entranced by hypothetical, non-imminent Newbury College — near Runkle-Heath- Lincoln, adding no "walkability."

John Adams offered, "facts are stubborn things." Yes, taxes are high, and seniors need relief, but education is our jewel. Splitting the 3-legged plan/stool is like splitting key Obamacare parts.

Ballot questions are crude devices — with less thoughtful/depth understanding, and more mass- marketed sloganeering. Separating Baldwin's vote would be overwhelmed by spending by its mega-affluent NIMBY-ites. In 1988, \$100k was spent to unseat selectpersons me and Estelle Katz — to end rent-control. I've predicted \$200k anti-Baldwin. That's not those Founders' "democracy" or "voters' rights." A separate Baldwin question would be to "democracy" as corporate money is to "speech." Citizens United's 4-justices' dissent said, "Today's decision elevates rhetoric over reality." Obama added, it "hands more power to special interests."

I offered an anti-Baldwin leader, "If you'd guarantee reasonable, enforceable campaign-spending caps, I might reconsider," getting no reply.

T/M's 3-Prong Plan must pass! 11-15 shameful years! TMM's who accepted Baldwin's "imperfections" — and trivially varying "enrollment projections" — shouldn't fall for Big

Bucksters now touting illusory "democracy" and "walkability." Driscoll is a tiny band-aid, not a "solution"; nor is Newbury. Please approve The Plan. End the Problem.

*Marty Rosenthal, PAX Chair, former selectman, TMM-9*