



**CAPE ELIZABETH SCHOOL  
SCHOOL BOARD**

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Patricia Brigham  
*Chair*

Linda Winker  
*Vice-Chair*

Karen Burke  
Peter Cotter  
Rebecca Millett  
Katharine Ray  
Mary Townsend

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Alan H. Hawkins  
*Board Secretary  
Superintendent of Schools*

**Resolution indicating School Board Opposition to the  
November 2009 Ballot Question Seeking to Amend the  
Automobile Excise Tax**

**Whereas**, a question will appear on the November 2009 election ballot that, if approved, would result in a dramatic reduction in the automobile excise tax; and

**Whereas**, vehicles less than six years old would see a reduction in the excise tax ranging between forty and seventy percent, while vehicles six years old and older would see no change; and

**Whereas**, 68% of vehicles statewide are six years old and older and would see no change in their excise tax; and

**Whereas**, passage of this referendum would result in an approximate 45% reduction in auto excise tax revenue received by the Town of Cape Elizabeth; and

**Whereas**, the auto excise tax is the third largest revenue source supporting Town General Fund operations, providing the Town with approximately \$1.69 million annually, an amount which would be reduced by \$758 thousand under this proposal; and

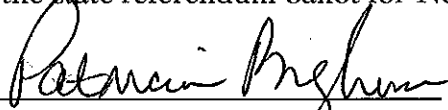
**Whereas**, auto excise receipts, when coupled with road assistance funding received from the State of Maine, approximate the amount spent annually by the Town for summer and winter road maintenance; and

**Whereas**, to replace this lost revenue through property taxation would require the Town to increase its property tax rate by 57 cents per thousand of assessed value; and

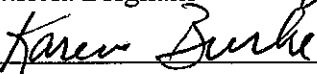
**Whereas**, given the cuts already made in dispatching, street lights, heavy item pickup, and other staff positions from the previous year's budget in order to maintain a stable tax rate, a reduction of the proposed magnitude would require the elimination of additional municipal and school services and staff;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** by the School Board of the Town of Cape Elizabeth that:

The School Board urges citizens to study carefully information on this ballot issue and to consider the serious consequences of potential reduced road maintenance, plowing, and other municipal services or the significant impact of property tax increases, both of which could be necessitated by passage of the ballot issue. The undersigned School Board members hope that citizens will join us in voting "no" on the excise tax proposal, which is Question #2 on the state referendum ballot for November 2009.



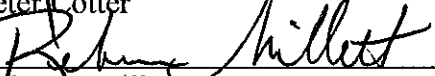
Patricia Brigham



Karen Burke




Peter Cotter



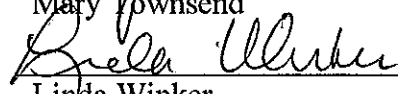
Rebecca Millett



Kathy Ray



Mary Townsend



Linda Winker