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A South Hadley Override Vote Made National Headlines. Here's Why.

The Western Mass. town is reckoning with deep cuts after residents rejected proposals for either a $9 million or $11 million override.

South Hadley voters soundly rejected a proposal to hike property taxes by 50% Tuesday, firing off a warning shot that reverberates statewide as dwindling aid pits many municipal leaders against an electorate with little appetite for another override.

The Western Massachusetts town shot down two separate ballot questions that would have implemented either a $9 million or $11 million Proposition 2 1/2 override, raising property taxes beyond the 2.5% ceiling laid out in the 1980 state law of the same name.

Now, heading into next month's Town Meeting, South Hadley is left to reckon with deep cuts that would scale back library and senior center services, curtail municipal staffing, and slash school sports and extracurriculars. On Wednesday morning, hundreds of South Hadley High School students walked out of class to protest the looming cuts.

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