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## **Massachusetts Town Rejects 50% Property Tax Hike.**

**South Hadley is a warning sign for financially strained municipalities across the U.S.  
'Voters want more efficiencies in government and less taxes.'**

Voters in South Hadley, Mass., decisively rejected Tuesday a steep property tax hike proposal that officials said was needed to avert deep cuts and ease a financial crunch similar to ones expected to hit more towns around the U.S.

By 65% to 34%, voters defeated a measure to allow the Western Massachusetts college town to raise \$11 million in new property taxes through what is called an override, according to unofficial results. A \$9 million proposal also failed.

Under the \$11 million option, owners of an average home would have seen their property tax bills jump 50%, likely over five years, the town said, compared with a 15% increase if neither option passed.

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**The Wall Street Journal**

By Scott Calvert

April 14, 2026 10:11 pm ET

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