

## **Holyoke City Council Resolution In Support of the Fair Share Amendment**

**WHEREAS**, Massachusetts needed new investments in our transportation and public education systems even before the COVID-19 pandemic, and those investments are needed more than ever to lift our economy into an equitable and long-lasting recovery;

**WHEREAS**, the best way to help working families and rebuild a strong economy for us all is to make sure that we have quality public schools for our children, affordable public higher education, and a reliable transportation system; and

**WHEREAS**, for Massachusetts to compete against other regions around the nation and the globe, we need modern, reliable transportation: safer roads and bridges, public transportation that works, and safe ways to walk and bike around town<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, Holyoke has 11 (out of 11) structurally deficient bridges and more than \$12.5 million in costs to address our overdue road repair and replacement projects; and

**WHEREAS**, students need a well-rounded education, founded on a rich and varied curriculum that includes science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), music, art, and athletics; and

**WHEREAS**, major investments in public education are needed to help students recover academically, socially, and emotionally from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, tuitions and fees at our public colleges are among the highest in the country, forcing students to take on enormous debt just to receive a degree; and

**WHEREAS**, new state revenue is necessary to rebuild crumbling roads and bridges, improve our public schools from Pre-K through college, expand access to vocational and technical training invest in fast and reliable public transportation, make public higher education affordable again, and expand opportunities for healthy walking and bicycling; and

**WHEREAS**, wealthy Massachusetts residents saw their investments grow during the pandemic while working families struggled, and Massachusetts' wealthiest residents should pay their fair share to support our communities and grow our economy.

**THEREFORE**, let it be resolved that Holyoke City Council supports the proposed Fair Share Amendment that would create an additional tax of four percentage points on annual income above one million dollars and dedicate the funds raised by this tax to quality public education, affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges, and public transportation.

1. Boston Globe, [Mass. still short on transportation funding, report says](#)