



Wednesday

Dear Selectman Rossi,

My name is Rick Green, and I am the chairman of the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance, a non-profit organization that advocates for fiscal responsibility and government transparency in the Massachusetts legislature. I'm sending you this letter because significant votes taken recently on Beacon Hill may impact your community.

The General Court revised the rules by which it will govern itself over the next two years. In both the Senate and the House, amendments were offered to require that the cities and towns be provided with a preliminary estimate of local aid for the next year by March 15, thus making the municipal budget process easier. The House version of this proposal was drafted by State Representative Angelo D'Emilia (R-Bridgewater) as amendment #5 to H. 2015, and it was defeated 118-38. The Senate version was put forward by State Senator Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester) as amendment #9 to S. 7, and it failed by a 29-7 margin.

During the same debates, State Representative Kevin Kuros (R-Uxbridge) suggested to the House a requirement that properly submitted, locally-approved home rule petitions be acted on within 120 days. In the Senate chamber, State Senator Vinny deMacedo (R-Plymouth) also tried to improve this process by extending the time for which approval of such petitions would remain valid. Regrettably, Senator deMacedo's amendment was rejected without a vote, and Rep. Kuros' proposal lost 117-37. To see how the lawmakers from your community came down on those and other roll call votes, please visit our first of its kind, real time, state legislative scorecard at: [www.MassFiscalScorecard.org](http://www.MassFiscalScorecard.org).

Unfortunately, as you're probably aware, this is par for the course in Massachusetts. In fact, we were one of just four states to be given an F grade by the Sunlight Foundation for the way our state government operates. Once you've learned more about the stance your community's representative(s) and senator(s) took, we encourage you to contact them and either thank them for voting in favor of a better budget process, or ask them why they voted the way they did and urge them to reconsider in the future. The main Statehouse phone number is (617) 722-2000.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our executive director Paul Craney at [paul@massfiscal.org](mailto:paul@massfiscal.org), or give him a call at (617) 797-2540. Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick R. Green". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rick Green  
Chairman  
Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance

FEB 26 2015