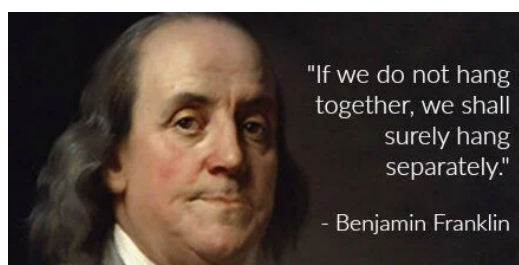


# DOLLARS AND SENSE

*in Franklin*



## "Hang Together"

At the signing of the Declaration of Independence, our town's namesake was purported to have spoken the quotation above. If the statesmen assembled didn't maintain unity among themselves, they would surely fail and literally be hanged.

While our stakes are obviously not as severe, we nevertheless face a dire situation and must maintain our unity and respect for each other.

That's why the founding team at One Franklin **rejects any attempt to mischaracterize** our financial woes as a competition between the municipal departments and school department, or to use the multimillion dollar budget shortage to **set Franklinites against each other**, based on income levels, partisan affiliation, or parental status. We must **hang together** to forge a fruitful future for Franklin.

## Joint Letter from Department Heads

On December 17, [a letter signed](#) by twenty-one Town department heads and leaders was presented to the Joint Budget Subcommittee. The letter decried

potential budget cuts (partially outlined in our inaugural newsletter) and warned of the dire consequences of inaction in the face of our current shortfall.

Specifically, the letter claimed that that the scale of the cuts could "significantly jeopardize the public safety of Franklin", "expos[e] the Town's AAA Bond rating to a downgrade", and "decimat[e] community lifelines".

The letter, signed by--among others-- the Chief of Police, Fire Chief, Director of Public Works, and Library Director, also states that the aforementioned leaders **"overwhelmingly support an override for the community, as the passage of an override allows our departments to remain solvent and not be affected by any further reductions"**.

*This letter is consistent with comments made by elected officials and FPS leadership: without bold action and community engagement, Franklin is headed towards dire cuts in the next fiscal year.*



## Important Dates

- Tuesday 1/14 @ 7:00 School Committee Meeting
- Wednesday 1/15 @ 7:00 Finance Committee Meeting
- Wednesday 1/22 @ 7:00 Town Council Meeting
- Tuesday 1/28 @ 7:00 School Committee Meeting
- **Thursday 1/30 @ 7 JBSC Listening Session (Franklin Elks)**

*For the full calendar of events, click [here](#). Zoom links are released with meeting agendas 48 hours in advance. All meetings are streamed on Franklin Town Hall YouTube.*

# Get Involved!

## January's Actions

1. The [Joint Budget Subcommittee](#) has set up at least six [listening sessions](#) to hear from residents. This is a way to engage for folks who can't typically make the town hall meetings. The first meeting is 1/30 at 7:00 at the Franklin Elks.
2. Ask a question about potential cuts at 1/22 Town Council meeting (in person or on Zoom!).
3. Write an email to all members of the Town Council **asking their views on the budgetary path forward.**

(Email

[onefranklinvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:onefranklinvolunteers@gmail.com) for example template)



## Clips We're Watching

- **Town leaders read letter (12/17 JBSC)**
  - [45:29-1:01](#)
  - watch as department heads read the aforementioned letter and community members react
- **Are we losing our brand?(10/12 JBSC)**
  - [42:24-45:09](#)
  - watch as a local father testifies that he moved to Franklin in part because of its reputation for "great schools", but he now worries that the stellar reputation might be gone by the time his kids are school-aged
- *Stay tuned for more clips from elected officials, advocates, and neighbors!*



**If we don't take action in 2025, public safety, quality of life, and public education for Franklin residents will continue to decline.**

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## **Stay Tuned For...**

*The third, fourth, and fifth "Dollars and Sense" issues the weeks of 2/4, 2/25, and 3/11*

- Our website going live!
- More information about the organization we're building and how to get involved
- More important dates, data, and ways to engage
- Click [here](#) for our first issue
- *Reach out to this email for any questions, corrections, or clarifications*  
*onefranklinvolunteers@gmail.com*

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## **One Franklin Founding Team**

- Dr. Anne Bergen, former Franklin educator and School Committee Chair
- Camille Bernstein, resident advocate, former School Committee member, and parent of 2
- Sue Dewsnap, former Chair of Finance Committee and resident advocate
- Ken Ojukwu, current member of Finance Committee
- Sue Rohrbach, former School Committee member

- Roberta Trahan, resident advocate and former School Committee member
- Ruthann O'Sullivan, member of School Committee, resident advocate, parent
- Jenna Cohen, resident advocate and parent of 3
- Celia Courtright, resident advocate, parent, and Music Boosters president
- Patty Dolan, resident advocate, PCC leader, and parent
- Erin Ferguson, resident advocate
- Jayson Joyce, educator, resident advocate, and parent of 3 young children
- Ben Liberto, resident advocate and parent of 2 young children
- Alison Murphy, resident advocate and parent
- Laura Minnichelli, resident advocate and parent
- Caryn Parnell, resident advocate, retired teacher, and parent
- Jessica Ulm, resident advocate
- Rob Vacca, FPS educator for 29 years, parent of FHS student, resident advocate

One Franklin, West Central St, Franklin, MA

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