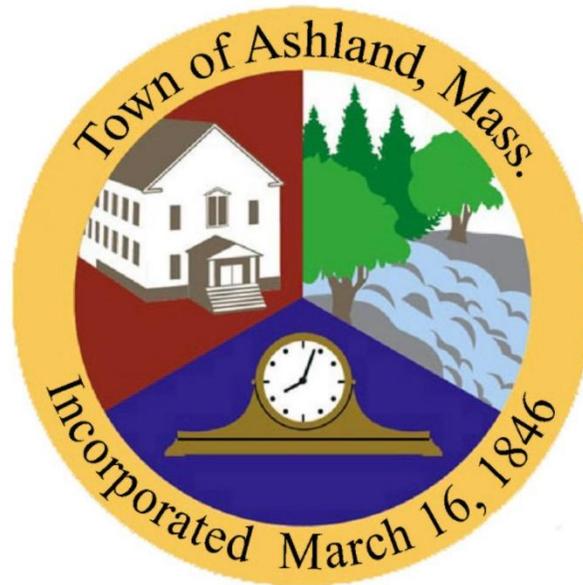


Ashland's Financial Future



Override Study Committee



- Established by Board of Selectmen in June after FY16 Budget Process
- Consists of two members from the Board of Selectmen, two members of School Committee, two members of FinCom (advisory), School and General Govt Administrations
- Charged with examining the possibility of an override: amount, structure, tax relief measures.
- Significant public input

Financial Forecast – By the Numbers

- **\$961,000** = Projected FY17 deficit

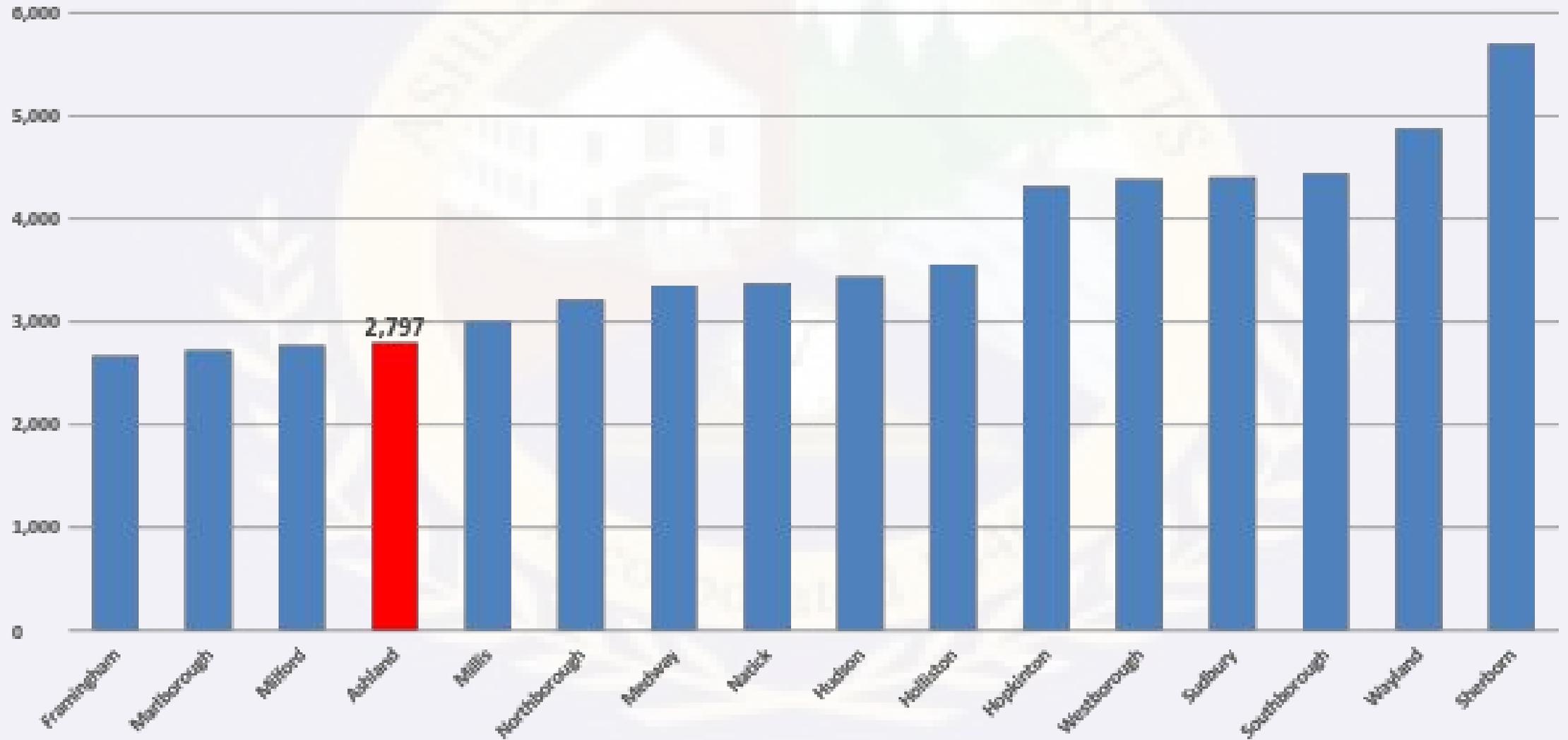
- **\$3.5 million** = Projected FY21 deficit

- **Driven by increased charges and limited revenues**



Is It An Expenditure Problem?.....

Metrowest - Expenditures Per Capita



How Have We Managed Expenditures?

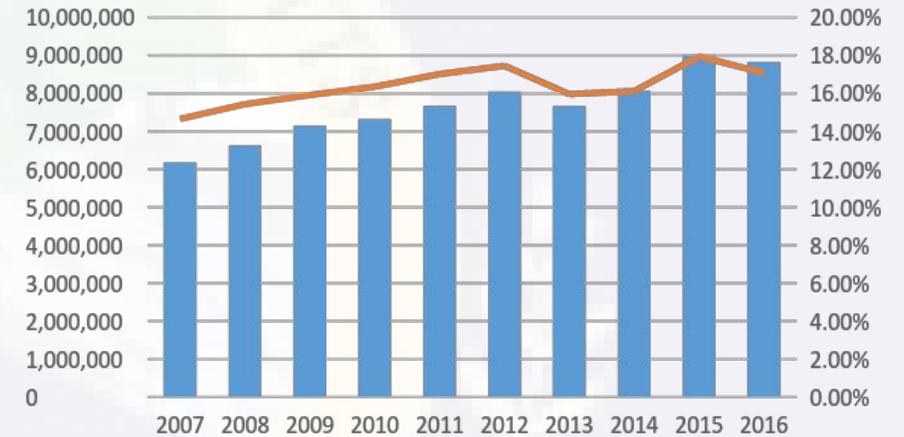
- Changed health insurance offerings – twice. Saving \$900k in FY16
- Energy efficiency upgrades through Ameresco - \$3.3 million savings over 20 years
- Solar projects - \$4 million savings over 20 years

DPW Employees vs. Road Miles



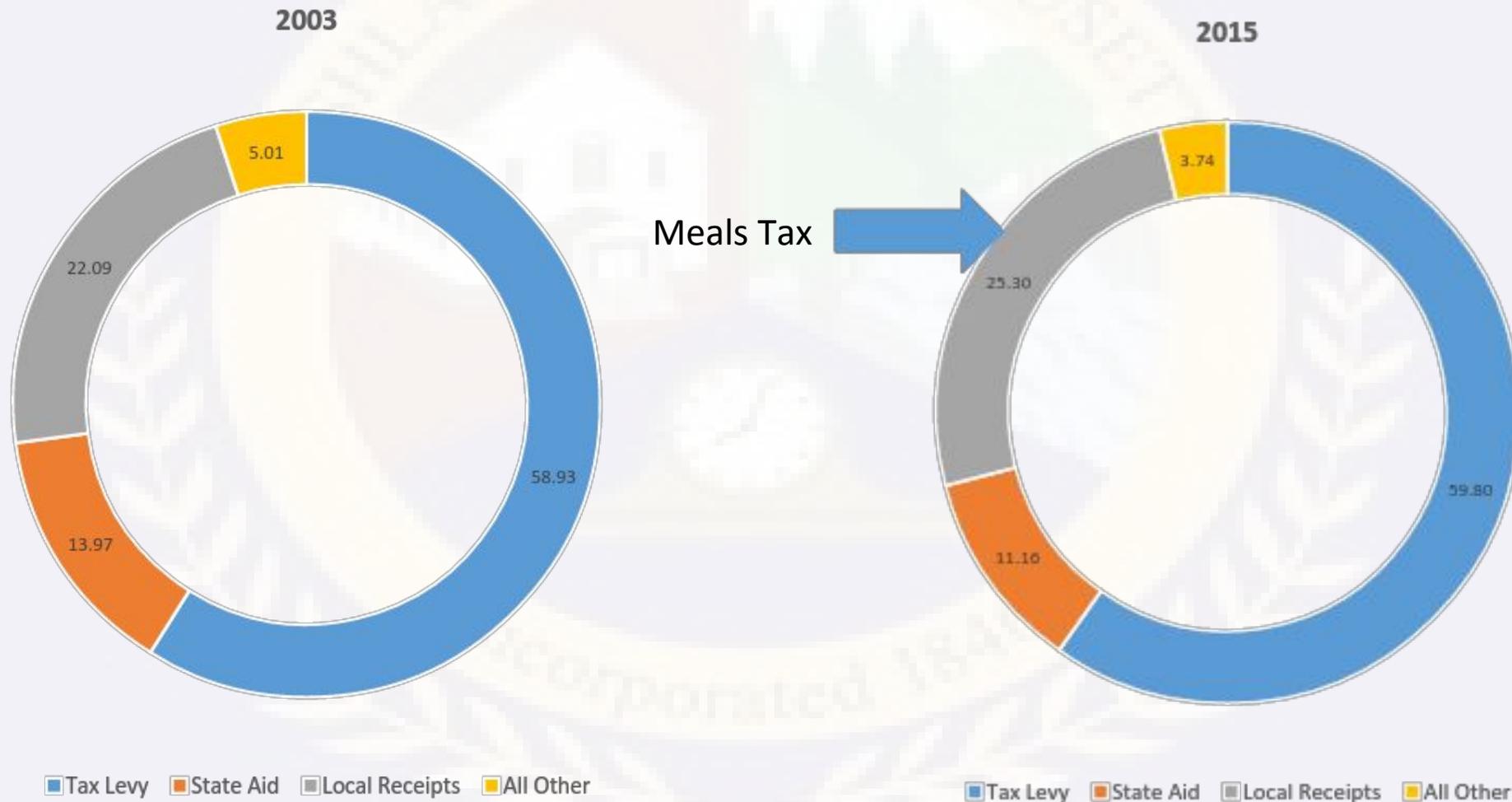
Benefits & Insurance Costs

Actual and as Percentage of Appropriated Expenditures



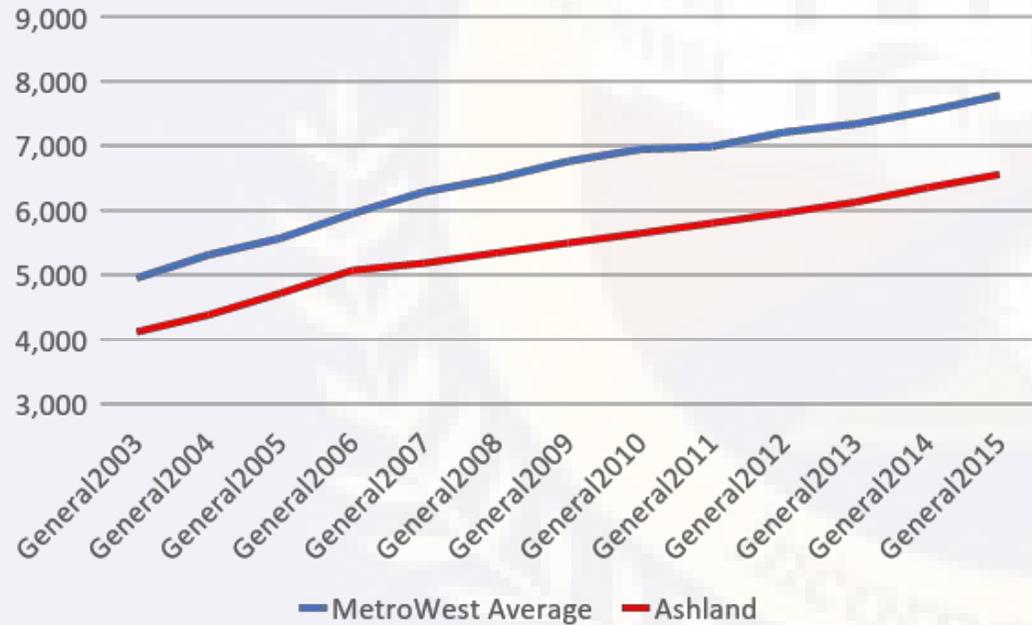
- Personnel reductions – School Department has lost a net of 26 positions since 2005
- DPW has gone from a high of 29 positions to its current status of 22 positions. Despite a 15% increase in road miles and 15% increase in housing units *per mile*

...Or do we have a revenue problem?

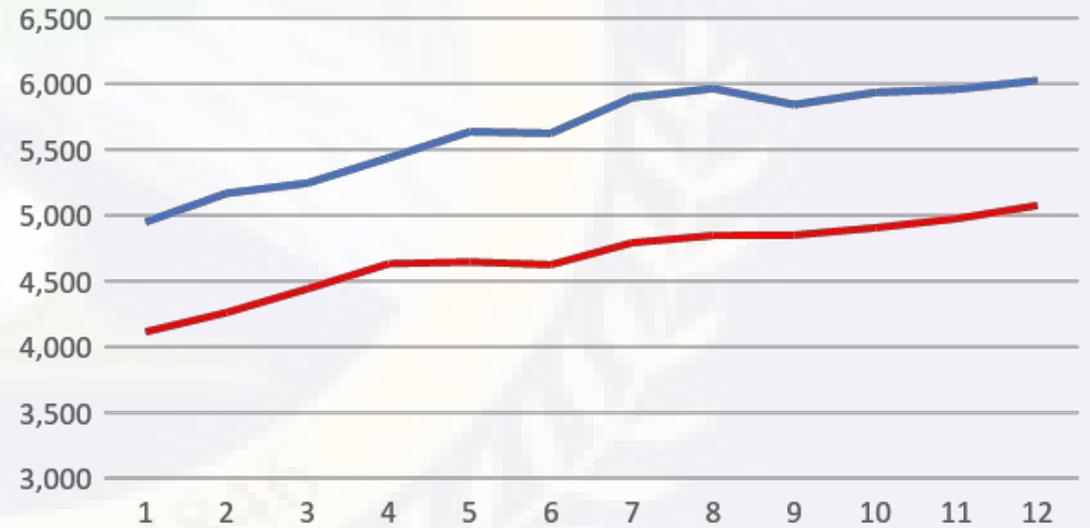


Property Taxes

Average Single Family Tax Bill



Avg Single Family Tax Bill - Constant Dollars



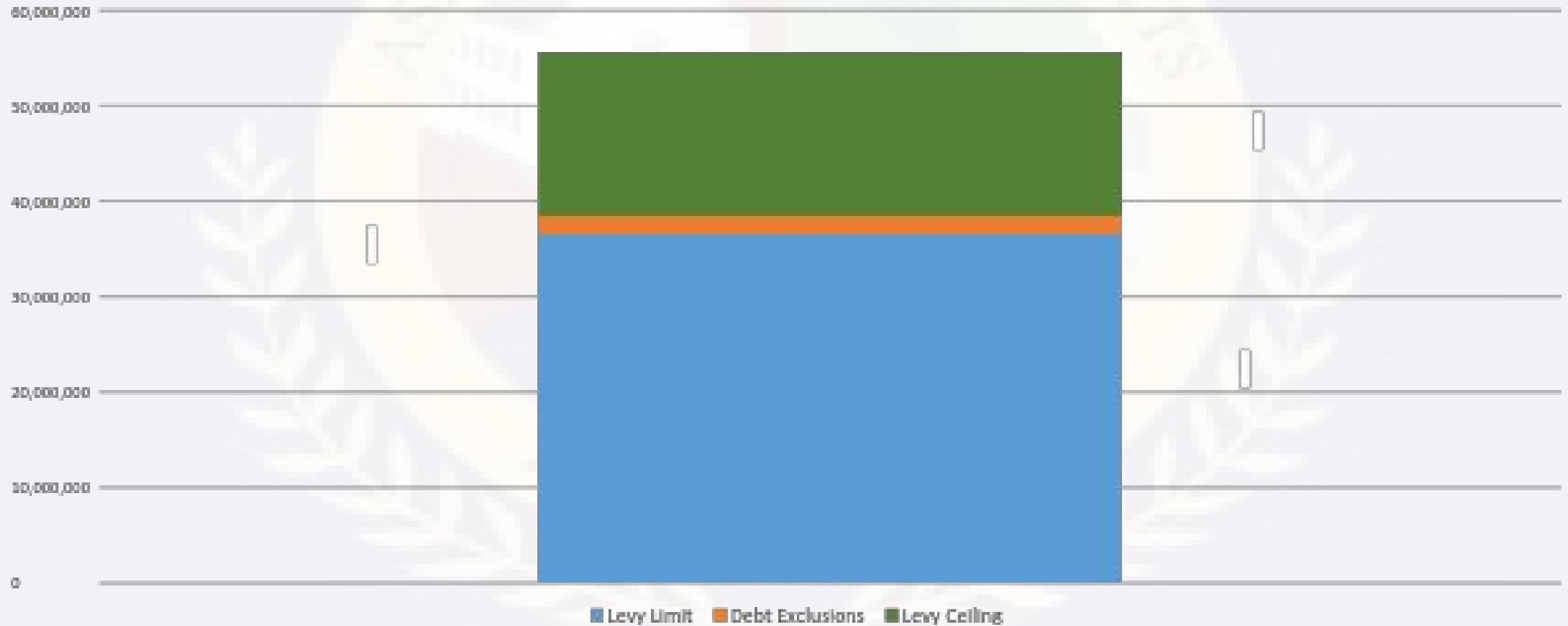
What is Proposition 2.5

- Law passed in 1980 (went into effect in 1982), which limits the amount of taxation a community can assess
- Sets two limits:
 - Caps property taxes at 2.5% of full and fair assessed value (levy ceiling)
 - Caps the amount the property tax levy can increase in a given year to 2.5% (levy limit)

Several ways to supplement the 2.5% increase

- New growth
- Exclusions
- Operational override

How Proposition 2.5 Works in Ashland



Next Steps

- Community Meeting on August 4th at the Community Center
- Meeting focused on Senior community on August 6th
- More meetings throughout August and September
- Contact Info: overridestudycommittee@ashlandmass.com