

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

December 27, 1977

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

In accordance with the provisions of Article LVI of the Amendments to the Constitution, I am returning, herewith, House Bill No. 6836, entitled, "An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year Nineteen Hundred and Seventy-Eight for the Maintenance of Worcester County, its Departments, Boards, Commissions and Institutions, of Sundry Other Services, for Certain Permanent Improvements, for Interest and Debt Requirements, and to Meet Certain Requirements of Law and Granting a County Tax for Said County."

This legislation makes appropriations for fiscal year 1978 for Worcester county. On December 6th, the House of Representatives sustained my veto of H.6328, the county appropriation originally enacted for Worcester county.

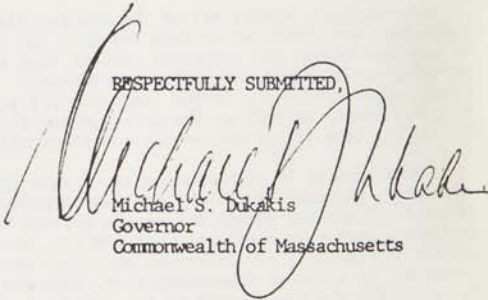
In sustaining my veto, the House took a significant step towards assuring the property taxpayers of Worcester county that those of us in state government are truly concerned with the alarming increase in property tax rates faced by many cities and towns. The swift passage of a revised county budget without the reinsertion of unnecessary new positions would have provided another indication that the Legislature can treat county finances in a fiscally responsible manner.

Unfortunately, almost all of the new positions that were in the previous budget have been retained in this version, and those that were deleted seem to have been chosen for political reasons that have little to do with the personnel needs of the respective departments. Since I am faced with a county budget that will, in the long run, add almost the same costs to the Worcester county payroll as the previous budget which was not passed over my veto, I have little choice but to reject this version.

I am returning it with amendments, rather than simply vetoing it at this point, in order to provide one last opportunity to enact a responsible budget for Worcester county during the current legislative session. These amendments amount to a reduction of \$78,695, which represents the funding for the 17 remaining new permanent positions in this budget. If I am persuaded, by a county department head, that one or more of these positions is necessary for the functioning of his office, I would be able to approve a budget containing that position. But I am not about to approve a budget establishing so many new jobs, to be paid for by the property taxpayers of Worcester county, without such information.

I therefore recommend that H 6836 be amended in Section 1 by striking out in item 14, under Central District Court of Worcester, the figure "1,065,121.27" and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 1,061,442.07; and by striking out the figure "978,506.27" and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 974,827.07; by striking out in said item 14, under District Court of Leominster, the figure "173,591.50" and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 158,085.35, and by striking out the figure "148,161.50" and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 132,655.35; by striking out in said item 14, under District Court of Northern Worcester, the figure "410,288.39" and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 401,219.89, and by striking out the figure "373,188.39" and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 364,119.89; by striking out in said item 14, under First District Court of Eastern Worcester, the figure "421,006.20" and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 414,069.20, and by striking out the figure "387,421.20" and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 380,484.20; by striking out in said item 14, under Second District Court of Eastern Worcester, the figure "209,823.45" and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 207,137.85, and by striking out the figure "189,184.75" and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 186,499.15; by striking out in said item 14, under First District Court of Southern Worcester, the figure "342,264.98" and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 336,077.98, and by striking out the figure "311,984.98" and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 305,797.98; by striking out from said item 14, under Second District Court of Southern Worcester, the figure "205,225.39" and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 192,627.39, and by striking out the figure "192,164.39" and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 179,566.39; by striking out in said item 14, under Third District Court of Southern Worcester, the figure "230,728.68" and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 225,491.98, and by striking out the figure "203,828.68" and inserting in place the figure:- 198,591.98; by striking out in said item 14, under Worcester Juvenile Court, the figure "450,218.55" and by inserting in place thereof the figure:- 438,537.55, and by striking out the figure "375,448.05" and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 363,767.05; by striking out in item 16 the figure "2,009,193.50" and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 2,004,076.90, and by striking out the figure "1,310,213.50" and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 1,305,096.90; by striking out under the Total amount of appropriations the figure "16,234,905.96" and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 16,156,210.21; and by striking out under the county tax the figure "14,537,105.96" and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 14,458,410.21.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



Michael S. Dukakis
Governor
Commonwealth of Massachusetts