

Oct 28, 2010

## Adult ed could be in jeopardy

Jeff Wieand, speaking as chairman of the selectmen board, outlined in his letter to the editor some huge consequences if voters pass Question 3. Reducing the sales tax to 3 percent would cut hundreds of millions in state funding for all public schools in Massachusetts, just one major casualty. Another he detailed so well is essential aid to cities and towns.

Many statewide budget items are not often mentioned in Question 3 discussions. One is very basic education for adults. Programs offering literacy, English language and math skills for adults, for example, save the state in the long run by keeping citizens with the lowest incomes from sliding into even greater poverty. These programs, like others, would suffer even more than they already have during the last three years of severe budget cuts.

Thousands of adults living in our communities need to, and want to, achieve education goals for themselves in order to support their families, find meaningful work, and participate responsibly in affairs where they live. Long waiting lists for these programs testify to the desire of almost all adults who lack the most basic education to provide for their families, for their own housing, food, health care.

Money spent now, whether for town services, public education, adult skills, public safety, workforce training — a person can think of so many things a culture depends on — nearly always saves money in the long run. We shouldn't require our elected officials to make impossible cuts right now, and right in the middle of a fiscal year.

Please join the very broad coalition of Massachusetts leaders and citizens by voting no on Question 3. —  
**Judy Hill, Keyes Road**