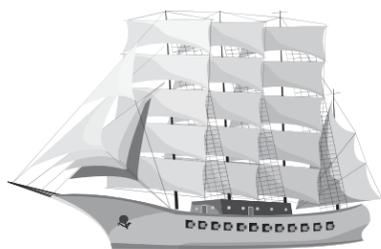


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Letters from page 9

in property taxes. I have seen, first hand, citizen discontent and frustration voiced at the annual town meetings when the treasurer reported an increase in property taxes. The town's citizens knew the cause: The failure, over recent decades, of the General Court to stop downshifting taxes to the towns and to provide for the court-ordered "adequacy" funding. Wells and Karrick worked for property tax relief.

Regarding taxes, I invite Louise Andrus to explain how she will fund education and relief from local property tax increases. She should also describe how she will fund other worthwhile measures, from highways and bridges to prevention and treatment of drug addiction, that were in the vetoed budget.

A second local issue is school safety. I saw at the 2017 town meeting heart felt and passionate concern for school safety. I joined the town in approving expensive upgrades in AEMS's security and life-safety systems. There was also considerable interest in hiring a school safety officer. It is well and good that the Governor says that New Hampshire is one of the safest states in the nation. That assurance, I suspect, is cold comfort to teachers, students, and staff who know about the recent tragedies at Dayton and El Paso and who may have drills for how to act in an emergency.

Louise Andrus had sharp criticism

for HB 564, which allowed school districts to decide what, if any, measures they might take to protect schools. Although the Governor vetoed the bill, I hope Andrus will explain what she meant when she wrote that the bill was for "protecting criminals by disarming law-abiding citizens."

She was also critical of HB696, which had considerable bipartisan support until the Governor vetoed it. She described it as "creating a guilty until proven innocent" standard. I wonder what she had in mind for an act that provided a protective order for vulnerable adults.

In her letter, Louise Andrus is long on generalities. She has yet to respond to questions that I have raised in recent editions of the *Beacon*. I look forward to reading her responses.

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