

- 1 I reluctantly voted yes last time. This time I could not in good conscience approve a budget that hurts the children of Vernon like this. I voted no and will continue to do so until Vernon starts to value our children's education.
- 2 I voted to approve, but it should be lower.
- 3 Education in Vernon deserves to be a priority! Put money back into the Education budget!
- 4 Cut Mayor's pay and budget for office worker
- 5 Education! Will vote NO until more money is place into Education ! This budget is a joke !
- 6 Vernon needs to think about the future. Spend the money needed to keep families from moving to other towns. Education should be a priority. I would also like to see more parks and fields for the kids.
- 7 More money for education. Do not cut programs.
- 8 The board of education budget should be increased to include FULL DAY Kindergarten. These students attending 1/2 day are a 1/2 year behind students who receive full day in other districts.

- 9 I just want the school to be fully supported and I do not have children in the system, but I did !
- 10 Need to improve schools - consider charging parents for magnet school attendents. Budget not well announced - almost missed it.
- 11 Cutting the education budget is totally unacceptable. Education needs prioritys in our town.
- 12 If this does not pass, I think the next budget should be higher. Also, we need to limit any growth in section 8 housing - it is the increased level of poverty in town that is putting a burden on our school system. All kids can learn but kids from economically disadvantaged backgrounds will have extra challenges. Poverty is the #1 difference between Vernon schools today and Vernon Schools 15 years ago.
- 13 My children need more education ! We are already in the bottom 30..... How much lower do you want them to be ?????
- 14 Our schools need more to improve. This is our future and we need to bring our schools up to the level so our kids can be successful.
- 15 The BOE Budget is under funded, the Town Council and Mayor should re-evaluate the future of Vernon's education and the responsibility to our children. People are fleeing Vernon to give their children a better education elsewhere.
- 16 Please put money back into EDUCATION. Our kids deserve a quality education. With our schools already considered failing such a trim budget will make matters worse.
- 17 This town needs to devote a lot more to education. Otherwise magnet schools and selling our house are in the plans for next year. Everybody will be affected with lower real estate values and more magnet school tuition. More money to the BOE. You are loosing all of the good quality students otherwise.
- 18 I voted yes because I fear even more money will be cut from the education budget. I feel the cuts to the Board budget should be restored. As town we need to invest in our children and give the schools the resources they need to be successful. Full day kindergarten is a necessity. Early intervention has the most effect in creating positive change.
- 19 You cannot run a town based upon the opinions of less than 2000 people out of 30,000 (!)! How do we educate the voters that the budget is the basis from which the future of the town will grow? DO NOT ASSUME MR. APEL that NO vote means we want you to CUT ! USE COMMON SENSE! IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT How much or how little taxes are raised or lowered. It's much, much bigger than that !!!!
- 20 Why are we giving raises to town employees and cutting the education budget with a town now 30 from the bottom? If the town is to thrive we must improve our education system ! Who would move into Vernon with its current education system?
- 21 Need to find a way to separate budgets. Our schools are a disgrace ! Shame on all of you !!!!
- 22 Our schools need work (improvement). Teaches need additional help in the classroom. Don't sacrifice our schools for another gas station!
- 23 Increase the BOE budget and I'll vote yes !
- 24 Seniors need to have taxes frozen, fixed income, can't afford these taxes.

- 25 I will never vote for a budget that takes away from education. Vernon wonders why all their kids are going to magnet schools. That's because our teachers and administrators have no help! They are running out of options. Cutting education is not the answer. We cannot improve as a Town with less education help. Vernon was once a town people wanted to move to. Now we are a joke! Let's face it, this town will forever be known as low class from here on out if our education budget keep declining! My kids will be the next to leave the Vernon school system. I refuse to have them waste away with this rapidly declining school system. I don't know why I wrote this. It's not like anyone will be smart enough or care enough to read it.
- 26 Stop taking money from education.
- 27 Is there a real choice? Schools have to improve. Any tax rate is rough on retired, but the schools have to be improved so people want to live here. New business, commercial needed to add to tax roles.
- 28 You get what you pay for ! Parents are sending children to magnets because of issues at our schools. Some of which are solveable with \$. When people don't want to move to town or want to move away, we all suffer.
- 29 Put more money back into the education budget!!! The children will suffer with this budget!
- 30 Please don't lower the board of ed budget ! Our kids are counting on it!
- 31 I believe that education should be the first priority, because a town that has a reputable school system will bring more residents. There is a lot of work needed to be done to the streets and Maples Street's bathroom, all the school's bathroom have yet to be renovated. EW !!!!
- 32 I hope with this current budget that children will not suffer the consequences.
- 33 Our education system is said, once upon a time it was very good and people wanted to move here.
- 34 The education budget needs more money. The teachers and programs that it funds are not luxuries, they are necessities. I will even pay higher taxes if need be. If our schools decline, we won't have a tax base to pull from.
- 35 Quit cutting education to appease the senior citizen vote. You are going to kill the future of the town.
- 36 It's a disgrace. We need to support our schools and I am willing to pay to do so.
- 37 Please help our schools and teachers.
- 38 The budget should not be reduced at the expense of the education of our young people or at the expense of seniors and others unable to afford the increase expense due to less services.
- 39 The fire department and park and rec budget should be larger as well. The community is suffering with the current budgets!!
- 40 I voted no because I think the budget should be higher for education, school building and roads.
- 41 Education should be #1 priority.
- 42 We need our teachers !!!!!
- 43 This budget does not adequately fund the town's school system. It places our children and our housing market at a significant competitive disadvantage next to neighboring towns.
- 44 BOE Budget needs to be restored to fund the unfunded state mandated programs. Town side has been cut every year - NO MORE
- 45 We still need paper, tissues and pencils at all of our schools
- 46 Please restore the BOE requested budget.
- 47 Education needs more money.
- 48 Please more \$ for the schools.
- 49 Why do you bother taking these surveys when you don't pay attention to the response? Voted NO because the budget is irresponsible to the town and the citizen's of vernon.
- 50 Stop fighting and do what is best for the town !

- 51 The Town Council should be ashamed! The town can not run on the backs of homeowners. Dollar Stores and Pizza Shops (Fast Food) on every corner is insane. Good families are leaving faster every day. Work together to fix this or the last one out can turn off the light! Support education, Police and Fire !
- 52 Please ADD to the town's education budget. It's difficult enough to educate the children of Vernon, we certainly can't help get out of the bottom 30 with less services.
- 53 We need a higher budget for education. People are moving out of town due to the poor schools in town. This town is going to continue on a downward spiral if something is not done. Please lets turn our schools around !!!!
- 54 You are lowering the quality of life in Vernon. I'm a life long resident who is ashamed to live here.
- 55 In the name of saving money this budget is cutting social services, including but not limited to education, and is significantly lowering the quality of life in this town SHAME!
- 56 Think of our children now and future.
- 57 Education needs to be our main priority. It obviously is not now.
- 58 I only voted yes because a no vote would only result in an additional budget reduction and increased costs. We need more funding for our schools and town. I am disappointed in the lack of voter turnout.
- 59 The education budget always takes the financial hit! Maybe it's time our illustrious Mayor realize we're not going to get young families if the schools are subpar. Tom Didio has my vote ! In Vernon.
- 60 Our town needs to spend more money on education so that people will want to move here. Also, by spending more money on education, our schools will improve.
- 61 Wish we had a better economy. We have no extra money to afford additional taxes despite the fact that the town and schools need and deserve additional money.
- 62 Keep cutting education and public safety, then everyone will leave town. Wake up !! Our school are terrible. Invest in education and stop cutting public safety.
- 63 With the influence of inflation budget (&taxes) need to go up to give the same services.
- 64 We need to improve our school! House value and businesses need to increae. We don't want to leave Vernon!
- 65 We need to improve our reputation in our school system! We need more people to want to move into Vernon - we also need one name for this town !! I thought that was passed in the 60's early 70's . Why do we still need two names! Very negitive and divides the town.
- 66 It offends me as a resident of Vernon that you lack the intelligence to realize that you must invest in our education system? If being in the bottom 30 wasn't enough I don't know what is this is an
- 67 I have children in school , and one graduating from High School this year. Don't short change my children's education trying to keep a campaign promise. The schools need to be funded. Our children are our future.
- 68 Henry Park should have a play area reinstalled if not already in the process of restoring. Many kids play there especially the lower income areas of Rockville. This gives the children an outlet and joy that they may not have due to their situation. Thank you
- 69 Should go up with the cost of living
- 70 We need to start thinking about our children! This budget does not provide the resources for them to be successful.
- 71 Voted yes but should be higher.
- 72 For many years this town went with minimal tax increases so whatever party had control would look good. STOP! Spend what is needed to keep our town thriving, and a preferred place to move to !
- 73 Voted yes, but the education budget should be much higher. PLEASE don't cut more out of education.
- 74 Unfortunately, the demographics of the town will never support the tax base needed to have any better of a town then we have. Last one out make sure you shut off the lights.
- 75 Who believes that money would be put back in the budget if it's defeated ?
- 76 Budget for good education
- 77 Some cutting but in some of the wrong places!!

- 78 We need to insure our future through our children's education. We can not let them be unprepared for the changing workplace. They are our future taxpayers!
- 79 Voted NO because more money needs to be put back into the Board of Education budget - will continue to do so until the Town takes responsibility for all of it's residents. It is unacceptable to continue to decrease BOE allocations despite the response of the citizens of the town.
- 80 Now is the time for the Town Council to stop talking about how they support education and start doing something about it.
- 81 Stop taking money away from the kids in Vernon. If we don't want to be in the bottom 30, we need to invest in education!
- 82 How do we improve education results if we don't invest in education???
- 83 Board of Education budget way too low
- 84 Schools need more money
- 85 Children in this town deserve more. This should be a higher amount but when does it stop. Two more houses for sale on my street.
- 86 The town doesn't appear to be investing in much of anything especially education. It seems we are losing more and more services while other towns gain.
- 87 Our children's education is not properly being prepared for and I want to see MORE money allocated for this in the budget.
- 88 The town needs to invest in the education of our children. We need to provide services and support the most vulnerable in our population.
- 89 I feel that there are cuts to the Board of Education budget that are not in the best interest of the students or overall quality of the schools. Towns must address the issue of the cost of magnet schools and special education costs.
- 90 My wife and three children will all leave this town if we have to put up with another year of this. What a shame!!!
- 91 I feel like we are failing our children and doing our town a disservice by not wanting to improve our schools/education. It will only lower property values and make our town less appealing.
- 92 We should support the Board of Education move and our town shelter move - those were reduced and I don't know why.
- 93 School system needs funds to help restore VPS to its former status as an excellent system - many streets in town need funds for repaving.
- 94 Please, Please, Please stop cutting the school budget. Our children must be educated. We should be spending more on specialized after school programs (since "leveling" is going away) and more on PreK/Full Day K. Yes parently involvement is important, but we as a town must provide the education foundation
- 95 I am only voting "yes" today, so the bleeding to our Board of Education Budget will stop! The schools, the economy and the politics in this town need help!
- 96 Our students deserve better!
- 97 The council needs to put adequate and appropriate funding to BOE, our children need a strong education system and nothing else.
- 98 No Schools Support = Lower property values. Our schools need to be rated higher.
- 99 I don't support this budget. I feel that it does not adequately fund our schools. However, I voted "yes" because it has become painfully obvious that this town does not support education and will cut the budget further if it does not pass.
- 100 If we cannot provide the service necessary to have a vibrant town, we should find additional revenue sources rather than cutting necessary programs
- 101 Government services are not bad - they're necessary
- 102 Please allow additional monies into the education budget.

- 103 This budget is unacceptable. I voted no because I'm tired of the old line "vote yes or they'll cut even more". People wonder why so few residents come out to vote. I believe that many of them have become disillusioned by this process. People are unhappy with the budget but abstain from voting rather than trying to decide between supporting a budget that they find unacceptable out of fear or being blamed for further cuts. As more and more choose this path, the situation only becomes worse and we fail to get the opinion of most of the town. It is further aggravated by a council which decides to make more cuts to education based on the votes of a fraction of the population and an overall minority opinion in survey results. Some members made clear promises to consider adding more money if the budget was voted down. People believe their vote does not matter. The Mayor made significant cuts at the very beginning of this process. This budget should never have gone directly to referendum. Many people voting are not informed. They do not realize the obligations of contracts, state mandates, etc. YOU DO. Our schools are in the bottom 30. By not providing adequate funding, you are creating an image that Vernon does not care about education. The truth of that statement does not matter nearly as much as the impression that people take away with
- 104 More money towards education
- 105 Our schools are in the bottom percentage and cutting funds will make that worse. Poorly ranked schools do not help property values.
- 106 The cuts from the original Board of Education budget are unconscionable, and MUST be reversed. In general, if we fail to invest in the future of this town, that future will be grim. We need great police & fire protection, roads, parks, etc., and DEMAND great schools.
- 107 I would like to thank the Vernon Town Council for saving a couple hundred bucks in taxes but costing us 10's of thousands in property value.
- 108 You can't take away from education and think that we are doing our students any good. This is why families are leaving our schools.
- 109 I felt that I had to vote "no" to the current budget because the cuts to the education system would be too detrimental.
- 110 I voted yes last time but decided to vote no this time. The schools cannot succeed with the additional cuts made by the Town Council. Please support the schools, our town employees, and invest in capitol projects to repair our infrastructure while interest rates are low.
- 111 The cuts made to the Education budget as well as police among other services are unacceptable.
- 112 Please provide budget increase for full time kindergarden in town.
- 113 We still need all the Town Services and our kids need a good education.
- 114 It is unconscionable that the Vernon Democrats are urging people to vote no. While this budget is woefully inadequate, there is no evidence to suggest that the next budget would be for a higher amount. Our town politicians need to learn to work together as an example for the next generation.
- 115 When are we going to get serious about addressing the serious issues we are facing in our school system.
- 116 With Vernon Public Schools failing, the own should be investing in the future. This budget is not sufficient to meet the needs of our children. The town is spiraling down and everyone I know is moving out!
- 117 This must end. Fully fund the BOE budget as recommended. Restore funding to the other Human Service Programs cut. I couldn't vote yes for the first time in 27 years. Stop the politics hurting our most vulnerable !!!
- 118 More money for the schools
- 119 We are shorting our children !!! We are shorting our town. Who's going to move to Vernon with a shoddy ed system?
- 120 Funding necessary for all day kindergarten.
- 121 Education is the most important thing we can give our town.
- 122 schools need more money
- 123 Education and Social Service programs should not get cut any further
- 124 Quality of education is directly tied to the value of our houses. When we invest in better education, schools, and related programs, our children improve their test scores; are better prepared for future academic challenges and the town as a whole, becomes attractive for new residents, increased housing sales means higher home values, Please keep up our education - we can afford it !
- 125 We should strive for excellence in our schools. Nothing is more important than our children.

- 126 Bd of Ed budget is too low to educate the children of Vernon to the degree that we all expect.
- 127 Where's the commitment to the community and schools? Families look for great schools, Vernon needs to bring its school system to a higher standard. It needs money to do so.
- 128 I have a fixed income, am retired, and a veteran, and believe this budget should be passed.
- 129 Cuts too much from schools which are rated bottom 3rd.
- 130 Our schools will not magically improve with less money. A basic economics class, could tell you that, just don't take that class in Vernon apparently!
- 131 Our property values will continue to decrease if we do not invest in our children and school. People move to communities for the great schools.
- 132 It's too bad that bullying and mis-info has run this election. It NEVER goes up!
- 133 I would like to see it lower but not at the expense of those who cannot survive now.
- 134 Still need to increase the grand list. We cannot be cutting everything to the bone every year.
- 135 Keep it as it is and lets move forward.
- 136 Think regionally
- 137 Let's stop the madness!!!!
- 138 We still could do better.
- 139 I appreciate that the town listened and cut considerable monies from the budget after the last defeat. I know there is a lot needed to be done, but there is only so much money to go around.
- 140 I am torn voter about the BOE budget. I understand the educational needs in Vernon, but I question how some of our educational dollars are eing spent. I truly hope our town leaders on the BOE side have other plans than simply going to the taxpayers who are already strapped to "fix" education. It is going to take those willing to make unpopular decisions to bring Vernon out of the bottom 30.
- 141 Good compromise - taxes too high
- 142 If it fails, cut it again !
- 143 Library should get more funding.
- 144 Thank you for holding the overall budget to a 2.75%. This is appropriate given the rate of inflation. I did not appreciate the cold call from the democratic party of Vernon in regards to the School budget. My family lives within our means. Government needs to do so also. The 7.5% increased in the proposed school budget is unacceptable. If Vernon wants to improve its school it needs to get TOUGH with standards for teachers and students. When 10%+ of the students do not pass the standard tests at least 10% should fail the grade and be held back !
- 145 Following initial vote the council took appropriate action
- 146 Full time kindergarten should be accepted. Education is the most important thing.
- 147 Vernon should consider more support for the Library which enables residents apportunities they would not have access to otherwise.
- 148 Still need to do something about cost of Union Benefits. That's what is bleeding town dry. Employees need to pick up much more of cost like real world.
- 149 Get down to business
- 150 It is important that we do seal coating of the roads on a regularly scheduled basis, such as twenty per cent (20%) every year.
- 151 Keep it around 3%, 3 put it up accordingly.
- 152 Acceptable because I do not know the cost of everything. I believe the education budget should still be lower because the Admin & Teachers (especially the superintendent & Assistant) are over paid for what they deliver. Three years is enough time to show the board needs to release the superintendent aka: Mob Leader. I also know the board is not fulfilling their duties and they should step down. The people & parents are not receiving the need service required of these people.
- 153 Keep costs down until things change.

- 154 Thank you for cutting the budget down to a more reasonable amount. We have to do the best we can with what the taxpayers can afford.
- 155 The Overall Budget is acceptable but should be lower.
- 156 You can't equate the amount of the Ed Budget with the Quality of Education. Scores don't get better with more \$'s.
- 157 Very difficult to cut anymore.
- 158 Administrators should not receive a raise if teachers do not. Be fair.
- 159 I am in favor of more money for the schools. But, just giving more money to the schools will not get us out of the bottom 30. How will the extra money to the schools get us out of the bottom 30?
- 160 If we as a town want to grow. We need to have a budget that helps the school system out. Stop cutting EDUCATION !!!!!
- 161 For the board, they should support all day kindergarten rather than teacher coaches - the teachers are not the problem.
- 162 More publicity needed, more got the vote out.
- 163 The Board of Education should cut from the top as well as the bottom. Too many Administrators per school !
- 164 It is shameful how some are pitting seniors as against the kids. Why can't you understand that many people in this town are struggling?
- 165 We would still like to see Vernon taxes lower. Can't these town consolidate? These are tough times!
- 166 Republicans are doing a great job helping to keep taxes lower.
- 167 Please respect our elected officials they give their time to help our town and are doing a great job. The BOE is a job that requires great dedication, and education is their top priority. Thank - you
- 168 Too many administrator in education
- 169 I voted no because the education budget is to low. It is disgusting and irresponsible that at a time when our schools are failing, and more than 1/2 those who voted in the last referendum said the
- 170 We NEED to add money to the education side of the budget. If specials, arts, extra curriculars get cut some of our students will shut down more and have nothing left to excite them. Please give
- 171 I have voted NO for a 2nd time because I want you to increase the education budget. These cuts to our children are unacceptable !! I am willing to pay higher taxes if it means we have better schools
- 172 Everytime we cut education budgets we make programs farther out of reach, such as music and art. For many students music and art programs are their only future. Give every student a chance.
- 173 1) Teacher salaries need to be brought in line with surrounding towns (e.g., Tolland, Bolton, Ellington and Coventry) which are performing well 2)Take the savings and apply it to bring more staff or urchasing more resources 3) PD money should be less. Teachers should want to further educate themselves without being paid. Plenty of free material on common core, smarter balance, and using technology.
- 174 If you continue to cut from the BOE budget you will drive away the families that are paying for the town through their taxes! Please support our children !!!
- 175 Please add money back to the BOE budget so our students can get the technology, full-day k, and other supports they need. And please stop all this political bickering. I would love to see some consensus among our town's Dems and Republicans!
- 176 Keep increasing the mill rate and there will be even more abandoned houses. There are already two on my little street. No more taxes. Also no bulk pick ups = junk everywhere drive around Rockville sometime!
- 177 You didn't listen to me last time !
- 178 Children of Vernon deserve a top quality education which requires a higher budget to accomplish
- 179 3.8% / year adds up !
- 180 I would feel better asking for more money towards, education if our schools were not in the bottom 30! But, without good schools our property values decline. Schools need to be better - check our superintendent.
- 181 I voted for the budget in an attempt to save the schools from losing more. If we need to cut, how about the leaf program? The kids should come before all except emergency (fire and police).

- 182 Once again, I voted yes for fear the BOE budget would be further hacked. Rest assured Mayor & Town Council, come November, I will not be voting for anyone currently in office regardless of party.
- 183 Need more money for education. Even a person like me who has no children in the school system, realizes the value of a good school system and Vernon's system has totally deteriorated! Money won't solve it all, but it will certainly help.
- 184 Need more \$ going to our schools. Why are so many parents opting for CREC schools that Vernon has to pay for? Put the money into our town schools.
- 185 I am considering sending my younger son to a magnet high school. Which I know will create an extra burden on our town, however, I am concerned about the quality of education Vernon will be able to provide with a budget like this. Please don't force me to look outside of the Town I love for my son's education.
- 186 I voted no due to the education budget. A majority of the budget increase in education will be absorbed by magnet school and other costs for which the Town cannot control. Improve our schools and some of these other costs will come down. Schools will not improve w/o the investment of financial resources.
- 187 Need paraprofessionals and teachers, gifted program support education to increase overall test scores.
- 188 Overall budget should be held to CPI each year & no more than 3%
- 189 I voted no because I would like more funds added to the education budget. This is the first time I have voted no to a budget referendum in years but I am done feeling forced to vote yes. Please do what is right for Vernon and increase the BOE budget.
- 190 I voted "no" because on good consciousness I could not support an education budget which would not even cover obligations let alone give our children the necessities for a great education. The fact that staff, technology, arts, etc. will be cut is awful - no wonder we have such an increase in magnet school enrollment. The Vernon schools have the potential to be great - great schools can only increase property values and bring in more families. Please consider adding more to the education budget.
- 191 How do you expect to draw families into town when you keep reducing the school budget? Please put all the money you took out of the school budget back in. My children's future depends on it.
- 192 Taxes in this town are too high! I have lived here for 15 years and my property taxes have doubled. Any more of this and my family will have to move. More money for education will not improve it. How much is enough? According to the BOE there is never enough. We all have to make do with less these days, so does the BOE.
- 193 Ask the teachers to do more just like the rest of the taxpayers.
- 194 People all forget that education is critical. How can we improve our schools without the funds necessary? Underfunding will only make the school system worse.
- 195 Our schools are failing and are the last place we should cut. Increase the education budget to give our kids a chance and to make Vernon an attractive place to live.
- 196 Sad that the schools will be the area that suffers. This will decrease housing costs and sadly you will see people begin to move to other towns with better school systems that is properly funded.
- 197 The Board of Ed budget should require a separate vote! More money for the BOE budget does not equate to better education! Something is wrong there!!
- 198 Please do not cut anymore from education. We need more resources to help our children get the best education. If the schools are improved not so many will be looking at magnet schools.
- 199 Need more for education.
- 200 Please do not cut any more money from the education budget. Fire Conway
- 201 Please add more money into our school system. We need art/music/gym programs. And not to lose teachers so our class sizes increase. Please help get us out of the bottom 30 schools.
- 202 Republicans are killing this town.
- 203 No increase means no increase. I am unemployed STOP
- 204 We need to start offering, our children a better stronger, school system, more money needed in education along with some changes in the schools.
- 205 Add \$ to education

- 206 Cutting education spending is a nearsighted idea
- 207 The Board of Ed has for the past 20 years been unreasonable in their requests. They dream big and always ask for more than they need.
- 208 How can it be acceptable to cut more from BOE budget when Vernon's educational system is already struggling !?! And taxes are up by 3.8%? NO
- 209 40/40 split last time and you made another huge BOE cut? Couldn't have made it more clear that you will do anything to prevent our schools from improving. Increase BOE budget / restore cuts !!!!
- 210 No school employees should get a raise until they figure out how to get us out of the bottom 30.
- 211 The Town of Vernon better wake up and stop worrying about leaf removal and start worrying about educating the children in this town. More and more people are going to go to magnet schools because our schools can't compete.
- 212 Again, we need to find a better balance of supporting our schools vs supporting our seniors. But really, need to advertise better for these referendums!
- 213 The town of Vernon is doing the Vernon Public Schools system a disservice by presenting this underfunded budget. Cut the Town Council side and raise the BOE!
- 214 Town cuts in social services thrusting that cost on agencies to hold cookie sales to raise funds is unacceptable. Cuts too deep in Board of Education too!
- 215 Education wise it's about salaries - not education we now suffer a poor rating statewide and more parents are looking at magnet / charter schools. We are pricing our citizens out - Carolinas look better.
- 216 Put more money in education and your budget will pass. Kids are worth more than what Vernon is offering.
- 217 It is not acceptable to me as a taxpayer to support a budget that does not support our children's education. Please put \$\$ back into our BOE budget so our children and town can have a better future.
- 218 Education is the future of our town. If we don't support it, we have no future - people won't want to live here!
- 219 Please support our schools, teachers and education. Get us out of the bottom 30%. We have good kids and teachers, but the town just gets a bad reputation. Please help us fix it!
- 220 We need more money for Education. Reduce Administrative salaries and do not give any bonuses to Town employees.
- 221 Hard to know where to cut, but everyone in private sector has to live within means, has hours cut, has to pay more into health care premiums and copays. Stop negotiating big increases and expecting those with less income to pay for it - happens every budget - people are told that these "contracts" cause increase, but you negotiate those contracts.
- 222 I still find that the town seems to be short on information to the public. Why should I vote for an increase? Where could a citizen look to find the changes made in this round? If you want a yes vote, MAKE the proposal CLEAR and Publicize it.
- 223 The schools need the money they have asked for in order to keep our town competitive. The rating of our schools affects home values and that is a long term problem that needs to be addressed!
- 224 Use some town \$ to ED. Board of Ed should utilize funding more efficiently. Run it like a business!
- 225 I voted yes for the last referendum, but no for this one, due to the lack of support for our schools. The bad reputation of our schools, combined with the town's lack of support for them, will be the reason why our family moves to either South Windsor or Ellington in the next couple of years.
- 226 Money does not make brains. The school budget is killing taxpayers stop the nonsense
- 227 These referendums cost the town \$5000 per time STOP THE INSANITY The school board is crazy. They keep pouring \$ into education programs that DO NOT WORK. Retire the teachers that have been there for ages ! There are more teachers, paraprofessionals & helpers than children WHAT ? The schools are in the toilet - Stupid
- 228 School budget too high. They don't know what to do with the money they have now.
- 229 Town is run by the unions and their supporters not the residents who pay the bills.

- 230 Taking the amount of money out of the BOE budget is crippling our efforts to improve our schools. We are now burdened with unfunded mandated testing and desperately need to invest in technology to offer an educational experience that is relevant to our students' lives. Shame on you Mr. Mayor.
- 231 STOP cutting our children's future!! Why is it that our teachers don't have access to white board markers or paper to print tests on? Then you have the gall to wonder why parents put their children into magnet schools!! Think about it! You cut they leave. My children should have what they need to be successful in their schools without having to go elsewhere to do it. Why does the mayor need such a big raise or the superintendent? She does her own evaluation! How does this help the townspeople to voice their opinion on her job! Which isn't the best !! I don't mind higher taxes if the money was going to the right place!!
- 232 Need to invest in future - flat budgets have put us further behind but voting no isn't going to get more funding. Too much focus on 55 and over and not on drawing younger people to Vernon.
- 233 Teachers should not get raises if the townspeople are suffering. My income goes down and the town wants to spend more. NO SENSE TO IT !
- 234 I voted in favor, but it's still hard - no pay increase for three years now for me. However, I understand the challenges our Town Council and Government has to deal with.
- 235 We need a budget for the town and one for the Board of Education
- 236 My children will be attending magnet schools next year because I am afraid that the Arts will be cut at VPS. I have a GT child that needs more opportunities, more than what the VPS are able to offer at his grade level.
- 237 Quit penalizing the students of Vernon we need good schools to have families want to move to town - not out of it.
- 238 Do not keep cutting the education budget. Cuts should be restored!
- 239 They should clean house in the top positions that are getting paid for more than one job and stop giving out bonuses.
- 240 Administrators should not get things I can't even afford like kindles. Town roads need to be fixed.
- 241 Education is so important. Vernon is going down fast - not acceptable.
- 242 Voted no because we need more money put back in the Education budget. I will continue to vote no until that happens. Our children deserve better.
- 243 You did not listen last time. We need good schools. After the last vote you lowered the school budget. It needs to be higher. Children are our future.
- 244 Total OK - But reduce Town portion and increase Education total.
- 245 We all have to do with less these days. I feel the government needs to follow suit.
- 246 Please add more money back to education budget. I have two children in magnet schools right now. I would consider coming back to Vernon Public Schools if things like all day kindergarten were present.
- 247 Would rather see less administrators than cutting funding to the mentally retarded or other health and social programs. Why do each of the elementary schools need principals and asst. principals? (for example)
- 248 The school is my main concern for many reasons as a mom, resident and realtor focusing on our schools is of the utmost importance. I think the officials including Mary Conway should not get a raise until they do their job. I feel that the town is going in the wrong direction.
- 249 Teacher raises should be based on performance appraisals- not automatic. Have never understood "tenure"!
- 250 Came to Vernon 36 years ago. Have loved this town until recently sick of all the fighting and failure of town's schools.
- 251 I would like to see a study of the school system to evaluate the need for so much administrator/coordinators etc.
- 252 Spending less on education will negatively affect our town. Being rated as one of the lowest school systems in the state will drive away possible home buyers and merchants who will pay taxes. The town's population will change and the problems will increase !
- 253 Reallocate current budget to facilitate declining student population
- 254 Pay raises should not = less for our students they give the future of this town and country
- 255 Start taking education in Vernon seriously. The town is spiraling downward because of poor schools & school performance PS I don't have school age children!

- 256 I understand that the retired community in Vernon is opposed to tax increases however, I remind those who have children that their kids are once in the school system and I am sure that their kids were once in the school system and I am sure they hoped the retired community would help support the education budget for their kids.
- 257 Why did Town employees receive bonuses last year? Give me a break
- 258 In my opinion "contractual obligations" (a term used in a 5-20-2013 JI article) really strains our budget and my personal sense of what is right when considering Vernon's budget. It was a sad day when the Teachers' Union became so powerful and the educational priority shifted from students to teachers and administrators. Someone should break that Union.
- 259 Education needs more funding to adequately meet the needs of our children.
- 260 Voted NO more money should be added to education budget.
- 261 Enrollment is stable. Test scores down - more money won't make it work. I'm on a fixed income with no raise in the last few years.
- 262 BOE too low
- 263 Educate our youth - we need more \$
- 264 Ours schools need to be funded properly for the future
- 265 Education budget is too low
- 266 Spending needs to be reduced - too many things we do not need while other deteriorate - too much political nonsense - my representatives do not work for the taxpayer, only themselves & mayor - have stated change where town pays for magnet schools - I don't mind paying for my schools (even though no children in system) but do not want to pay for schools out of town - those parents should pay.
- 267 Class sizes are too big. Students need more highly qualified teachers instead of cutting teachers. The technology also needs to be improved in the schools.
- 268 In a perfect world the BOE would get all that it needs. We don't live in a perfect world. We have to keep things as low as possible while maintaining essential services (i.e. police, fire, education and roads).
- 269 Time to put the children of Vernon first. More money in the education budget is necessary !
- 270 Keep it as is but if voted down reduce it more. People are hurting
- 271 Hoping my "No" vote shows my disappointment in the education nonsense. Get it together for the benefit of all.
- 272 We need to be able to keep our teachers.
- 273 We are in the bottom 30% because of a lack of funding to help the kids and improve the curriculum
- 274 Lower School budget affects schools quality - affects property values - tax income.
- 275 Education and schools need more money to help them do the great things they do
- 276 Our education system is one of the main reasons people move into town; we are being short sighted and ridiculous everytime we cut more from the BOE budget. Our schools deteriorate, causing people to move out, or send their children to magnet schools, which eventually costs us more. Reinstate the BOE original budget!
- 277 Please do not miscontrue my no vote as one that wants the budget cut further. I want money restored to the BOE portion of the budget. Underfunding our schools is not a solution to the problems faced by our hardworking teachers and administrators. With new curriculum around the corner (Common Core State Standards) and our ranking in the Bottom 30, our town needs to step up and support public education. The professionals who developed the BOE budget know what our school system needs. We should listen to those who know and work in our school system. I am willing to pay more taxes for the sake of our town's ability to educate our children.
- 278 For the first time ever I'm voting no because the education budget is way too low ! Stop making political hay on the backs of our children, our future. We need the resources to help the many, many children living in poverty. Add to the education budget despite Hall Cummings assumption that it couldn't happen.
- 279 Board of Education needs to be properly funded to get us out of the bottom. Monies can be taken from the town budget. They need to sacrifice more from that budget.
- 280 The Town did a good job of cutting expenses. The School budget may have been cut by the Town Council more than the some wanted. But the schools never offered a budget solution.

281 If you want parents to stay in Vernon- you need to put \$ into technology so that our students can be productive members of the 21st century
282 Teachers and administrators receive high pay and great benefits. If it is all about the kids they should give back
283 Given the current state of the schools and the "mass exodus" to private & magnet schools we need to do a better job to keep kids in town.
284 Four years ago I received \$.025/hr then I was laid off.
285 I don't like the budget, but voted for it. I'm concerned what the Republicans will do if the budget is defeated.
286 Education of our children is our future - we need to promote the development of strong resources.
287 We need to fund education to get a better school system.
288 Why are the dems trying to stack the deck, by bullying us into a vote of "no" No reason for hijacking the honest budget please.
289 I voted NO We must fund education
290 Do not cut BOE funds. In fact increase them. We need to invest in our schools and education technology to prepare our students for the future. Make Rockville (Vernon) a quality community again.

291 You can invest in education, making our town more desirable to live in, thus increasing our tax base, or you can pay for my child to go to magnet schools.
292 Must be some way to stop automatic pay raises.
293 Support of local schools needed to maintain neighborhood environment
294 It is frustrating to see our children get short-changed, literally. How can our town maintain itself, and our future, with a lack of regard for those who live here? Families deserve better. Vernon deserves better. Make Vernon a place where families want to live. Priorities!
295 Please ensure Vernon has a great school system. Our future is at stake!
296 Getting rid of secretaries and paras is not the answers 1% pay cut for anyone over \$100,000.
297 I voted NO because more money needs to go to the BOE. Our schools need the support of the town.
298 Do not reduce education any further. Only a top class education system will enhance property value. Otherwise they will go down.
299 We need to buckle down and bring Vernon to the level it was 20 years or more. We are going downhill. More money should be spent on students & programs.
300 Pass it for the schools
301 The Board of Education and the BOE Administration area disgrace to this community. Most of the politicians are using the budget as a means for their own political gain. We deserve better.

302 We cannot afford to short change our children.
303 Do what you said you would do and add \$ back to the BOE. Restore their budget to what the BOE said they needed!
304 We cannot support a town that does not put value in education. Our home values will continue to decline if our schools do not improve. Put our children first!
305 We need more money for education. Let's invest in our future.
306 School Budget too low - schools need help now; one of 30 lowest in state THINK!
307 I voted yes, but I DO NOT agree with all the cuts with the BOE. You have to put money into education for our town to be a place for families to move to. Who wants to live in Vernon with the schools
308 Our children are our future. They deserve better.
309 Get it right this time.
310 The community lacks strong leadership - now we have only politics. I voted NO in the hope that more money would be restored to education.
311 When will you realize the importance of education! We will not have an informed electorate if we continue to cut services.
312 STOP THE IN FIGHTING and start working to help this town. Better schools = higher property values and bring in young families.
313 No information of the money spent - where.

- 314 Put more money back into the schools, they are our future !
- 315 More money put into education budget does NOT improve the results. I am also concerned about the amount we are paying for our children to attend magnet schools. Enough of state mandates !!!
- 316 Education is not a plae to make cuts. We can't expect superior shools when we can't fund the resources to help them.
- 317 Stop taking money from our childrens education.
- 318 Spend money on education or no one will want to move to this town.
- 319 Cmon we need decient schools. Give the kids a break.
- 320 Education should not be rewarded for a failing performance. The teachers already receive a "step" increase each year with the contract. This should be stopped as well !!
- 321 I voted NO because the BOE budget needs more money to support the children.
- 322 School waste too much. They should cut staff!
- 323 How does Vernon expect to keep up with a budget like this for education. This will leave our students further behind.
- 324 We need to give more money to the Board of Education so our chidren do not suffer and people move out of town or to magnet schools.
- 325 We don't get 2% raise - why should they
- 326 I feel education is not a priority any more. I also feel magnet schools are killing our town BOE Budget.
- 327 People are struggling to pay bills. The democrats should be ashamed they are playing politics with the citizens and taxes.
- 328 I voted NO because I do not support the current education budget. MORE money should be added so we can provide MORE services to our town that is one of the 30 lowest performing distrits in CT., not continuously take services away.
- 329 It's very difficult to vote on a budget when we have not see any information about it. Usually we can read articles in the newspaper so we can make an informed decision!
- 330 Need to increase education budget to improve our school standings
- 331 Our children deserve much more. We chose Vernon and want our children to have a good education here in Vernon. If not we will move to another town.
- 332 This town spends in such a wasteful manner. Stop taking money from public programs and our schools. If spending over \$20,000 is a priority to this administration for new office furniture, then they deserve to be voted out of office.
- 333 Spende less, reduce mill rate & taxes, give backs from employees.
- 334 Thank you for this opportunity to comment. It clarifies my vote.
- 335 Get together and do a bi-partisan budget. Enough of partisan politics.
- 336 Keep working on lowering the amount. There's plenty of areas that need to be lowered including education. Free preschool is ridiculous (for one!)
- 337 You still don't get it. Us seniors cant afford increases every year. Put a freeze on raises and have town employees contribute to health care costs.
- 338 Repair roads and infrastructure
- 339 I haven't had an increase in my beget for 5 years. The town needs to live within its means
- 340 Benefits and pensions and pay raises should be cut. Also, extra personnel not needed should be cut. Not children's programs
- 341 Just to(sic) high
- 342 The Dem's are sounding like Washington, DC. Big bunch of babies... grow up!
- 343 The budget could be adjusted by either cutting personnel cause the economy is not doing well so leave it as before or cut it.
- 344 You people just don't get it, do you?
- 345 Tax relief

- 346 Give me a break
- 347 Need to cut, where necessary
- 348 Federal state and municipal taxes are out of control. Government never gets smaller
- 349 If all the monies or at least a good part of the money went for the children and not raises for the staff, I would say accept.
- 350 Lower the tax rate annually for several years in a row and taxable property will go up with eventual prosperity for citizens and granter tax income available for spending.
- 351 Spending too much. Homeowners get to pay out every year. Value of homes has gone down. Retired are on fixed incomes, No increase in pensions for the private sectors. The well is dry. We encourage young people to leave CT - no future here with highest of taxes, and oh, the corruption, waste and spending. Don't move to CT and get out if you can After 7% to realtor, 10% to state and 3.8% to Obama care, Run, don't walk.
- 352 Cut progressive socialist education format "community service" = slavery
- 353 need to do more for seniors and vets. Teachers are paid enough and have the summer off for most.
- 354 I missed the last referendum vote. Did not see it in the paper - not enough signs
- 355 Spend less, manage financial funds more effectively.
- 356 contractual obligations' may be this is the problem. Cut administrative overhead. Consolidate functions with other towns, run the town like a business.
- 357 Hard times, cannot afford to raise taxes
- 358 The republican party did a good job watching out for all taxpayers monies. Keep up the good work. B of E should be cut more and better allocation of funds to help the children.
- 359 Stop the practice of raising property taxes on the homeowners
- 360 Taxes for senior Citizens who have payed (sic) for many years and are now on a fixed budget should be set at fixed amount.
- 361 we need to present a reasonable budget. Cut out all the fat -do we really need all the aides? All the frills? That is not what drives good students or teachers. I already pay over \$4,000 cant do anymore on S.S.. and pension
- 362 Seniors cant afford this budget
- 363 Same as last time - budget increases only go to the unions
- 364 Education starts from when a child is born. More parents need to be responsible in educating their children.
- 365 We need more specific information about how the money will be spent. Too much of a lack of specific details.
- 366 Still fixed income, no raise since 1999 from retirement income.
- 367 I am voting no because of --- taxes. Cuts should be made everywhere in town gov and including education. Not once did I hear Town council democrats mention how tough seniors are having it. Only what's good for teachers. All day kindergarten is a no. Recently seniors received 2 years without a raise and only 1.2% this year. Budget should not be raised by more than 2%
- 368 Don't nine of the board get raises. You don't do anything about the school systems. Also Parks and Recreation should be taking care of.
- 369 Cut meat -benefits/pension/jobs
- 370 need to maintain at lower costs - please we have to
- 371 The town of Vernon should learn to run on lower budget . We have to cut back on the spending. After all we are not CA, NY or any other town. We need to cut back and let people go. You are bleeding us out of our hard earned money. How are we supposed to survive? Its time to cut town spending we pay our town taxes for services that the town provides and then we have to pay again for use of transfer station, lg. pickup and transfer pass and ticket. When is it going to stop? STOP THE SPENDING.

- 372 The more \$ you throw at the Board of Ed, is not going to help Vernon's very poor school system. Maybe the parents need to get involved and those kids are the ones who are sent to school as daycare. Enough ----parents have to pay more for having more than 2 kids in school. Our school system used to be the best in the state.. What happened? I think Mary Conway at the top should go - sorry - I think that is her name - it tanked on her watch.
- 373 I don't understand why the Town council won't make the hard choices
- 374 Towns cannot keep going up when new businesses are not coming to Vernon. Loyal residents cant foot the bill.
- 375 It just costs too much money for the education side when the kids just continue to fail. Stop the social programs.
- 376 Limited income - be reasonable
- 377 You all need to remember the elderly. Higher taxes mean more loss of our homes. Some/most cannot afford assisted living... etc.
- 378 The budget is still too high!!
- 379 I cannot afford any increase as I live on fixed budget. Just about getting along now- REDUCE THIS BUDGET. SCHOOL EDUCATION BUDGET REDUCE NOW
- 380 Your(sic) out of your mind hiking taxes now. Last years budget is high too!
- 381 You need to get your act together and plan more carefully and be proactive
- 382 The TC and Bd f Ed are out of touch with the voters who cannot continue funding multi-million dollar increases annually. Staff cuts are necessary esp. in the schools
- 383 Cut more of Ed Budget still too high. If needed lay off some of the high payed teachers or Admin. Close a school if needed
- 384 Please learn to control cost(s)! This also goes for the legislature in Spades. Tx from chance to comment
- 385 This budget is too high. Senior. Didn't advertise very well not in Htfd Courant my neighbor only knew about it by sign in front of school
- 386 You just don't get it! WE cannot afford more taxes. Our schools staph(sic) wood (sic) give them more money - get new teachers that know what they are doing
- 387 In plain English -No new taxes. Although the increase was voted down, the progressives sill insist on wanting more & more money. Live within your means - I have to!
- 388 Why should residents have to pay for schools when we don't have kids in school? Cut teachers & administrative pay. They don't need to be making so much.
- 389 Live within our means
- 390 Cannot afford more taxes. School administrators should be taking pay cuts or budget(sic) freezes. Why is it always up to those who make much less to shoulder the burden. We work just as hard!!
- 391 We don't want Common Core. Municipal employees should pay more for their benefits just like folks do in private sector.
- 392 Budget now out of site. Reduce employees - their benefits & retirement raises. Officials have to start taking control.
- 393 It is not how much is spent on education that is a problem. Taxes are to(sic) high. Residents not getting raises - teachers always do and they don't seem to be doing a good job but get rewarded every year.
- 394 I am retired - my income doesn't change much. If taxes continue to increase abundantly - I will be moving out.
- 395 Its time to put a stop on spending foolishly - I'm on a fixed budget with no increase EVER!
- 396 Freeze wages most companies have. Have not gotten a raise in 2 yrs to keep job. Adopt same policy times are tough - Draw the line
- 397 No tax increases, I haven't had a pay raise in over 5 years cut anything and everything except Police, Fire, Trash, Snow removal. Concessions, furlough days, reduced town hall hours, larger class sizes all would be fine
- 398 Bd of Ed is out of control - stop spending the left over monies each year at the end of the year. The Town as a whole spend what it doesn't have
- 399 We cannot afford to live in Vernon and pay for all the renters who do not pay property(home) taxes
- 400 Tax increase should be less than 2%

- 401 I was one of the people who voted against the budget in the 1st referendum. As a 22 yr. resident, I do not appreciate the comments of some Town Council members. I am not against education, but let's get real. We all know that the money we've thrown at the Bd of Ed only goes to salaries and benefits. Very little goes into improving education. As I stated before its getting very hard to make ends meet not only because of local but also state taxes. Its time for the politicians to show some concern for those of us in the middle who are just hanging on. Believe me - if I could sell my house and move I would.
- 402 We get very little for our tax dollars. Apartments should pay higher. Town should collect from ANYONE who is overdue with their taxes. They know they are!!
- 403 Taxes are too high
- 404 Seriously - ! Come on taxes are way too high - people are barely making it!!
- 405 To improve education 1st remove tenior(sic) for teachers who don't perform
- 406 Keep working to lower budget
- 407 Still to(sic) high. I got no raises for 3 years . All benefits are best in area for teachers.
- 408 I attended the RH school when it was 50 outside and the AC was on in the auditorium. I don't want my money going for that! I and others froze!
- 409 Money is not fixing the issues in this town. Parties need to stop fighting and act like adults and get things done.
- 410 No higher taxes. No all day kindergarten
- 411 Teachers union, teachers raises and throwing more money into the schools does not make a better school system. Check out Catholic schools. Seniors don't get raises. How can they pay higher taxes?
- 412 Superintendents should be lower salaries
- 413 Vernon is considered to have one of the highest taxes in the state. Yet our schools do not support the dollars spent
- 414 Throwing money at education doesn't make kids smarter. We need better educated teachers and parents. Grades don't get better fire teachers and higher better ones.
- 415 We need new thinking leading to lower taxes & expenditures. Vernon's current educational model des not work. Fix it or hire administrators who can. A 5% property tax increase is ridiculous. It should be less than 1% - CUT SPENDING
- 416 Retired - We have not had a raise in 13 years. But teachers get 2.5% a year???
- 417 Too many increases in wages & benefits for town employees. Open up and renegotiate?
- 418 Town should look for more cuts just like a business
- 419 Taxed enough already
- 420 Tax and spend policies should be a thing of the past. Cut the damn budget in half.
- 421 In a tough economy people can not afort (sic) any higher taxes. Town's people are asking for 3% raise when most people aren't getting yearly raises
- 422 No increases - Fixed income
- 423 TOO high
- 424 There are ways to cut waste and excess spending without eliminating services
- 425 My taxes were raised \$800 last year. I can't afford any more increases. The federal, state and town budgets must cut out all unnecessary expenditures.
- 426 When is the town going to do something about legacy costs (ie pension & benefits for town employees) In the private sector who have no increase in their pensions and pay over 500/month for health insurance.
- 427 Senior on fixed income can not effort(sic) this. Where in the hell do we get the money from Apel?
- 428 I feel the over taxed on are And don't see the end of the tunnel dug to the blinding conconn inc all politicians have on when it comes to spending.

- 429 tired of education and I am a parent who sends her child to a private school.
- 430 The budget is not explained cleaning and when an individual can understand why such a large increase in taxes and budget, especially in school budget when we are getting funds from the state b/c school systems failing but spends the most per student.
- 431 This town is out of control with your buddy system for hiring. The town itself needs to cut its budget.
- 432 I'm on fixed income- I can't afford more taxes
- 433 Get real- go back to the three R's- Kids have a hard time getting into a good college.
- 434 There is a need to stop increasing the hoping for things to improve. Need to review all departments and cut out poor spending habits. If teacher aren't achieving goals- they don't belong.
- 435 Time for Town to pay attention how to spend money.
- 436 You can't keep raising the tax rate every year! It has to end sometime. Now!!
- 437 We are paying enough take as it is, pat the Town people for work.
- 438 We will be leaving CT for SC because of outrageous taxes. We will save \$6,000/yr by doing so. Until you address the 800th gorilla in the room (outrageous gov't worker salaries, healthcare and pensions, folks like us will continue to flee. (we have lived in CT for 45 years.
- 439 Get your act together... cost cutting measures to set your housing open for like.....
- 440 Do not raise taxes! Cut spending. There's a lot of waste in the Education Budget.
- 441 The DPW Budget items should be reduced severely. They have bought more new "toys" in the last year and a half, the only thing left to buy is new vehicles for every employee.
- 442 Let's figure out a way to have what we need without taking more from those who don't have. There is a difference between want and need! It's up to the powers to be to figure this out.
- 443 On fixed income. Can't afford to put any more money out.
- 444 I think we need new council members with new ideas in this town!!!
- 445 The Town of Vernon has to live within their means. Info on where money.
- 446 Not publicized enough. Budget too high. I took a \$5000 pay loss this year just to keep my job. I am tired of public teachers getting raises in their contracts every year. Get real, with the economy being what it is.
- 447 Cut spending we cannot afford it anymore.
- 448 You are moving in the right direction but have a way to go.
- 449 The union controlled BOE must be a much faced ever up by our town leaders. Make the BOG strong progress in our kids education and we will consider giving them more money.
- 450 Get at the town and teacher contracts- align them with the 21st century
- 451 Cut town workers pay and benefits cut education budget.
- 452 Mayor is doing crappy job
- 453 We need to live without an increase. Mayor is doing a bad job.
- 454 Enough- stop spending. You're killing the education. Should be separate from seniors the regular budget.
- 455 Freeze property taxes for over 70 year olds. Gladly vote yes otherwise.
- 456 Cut down the fat

- 457 Am on a fixed income- just have to do without things I really don't need.
- 458 You are spending too much. We have to live with what we have. So run the same way please.
- 459 We pay enough!
- 460 I can not see increasing the board of education budget to be a higher amount. If they cant make it better with the amount it is now why increase it. Also cut at the top- not secretaries etc. the big \$\$ administrators etc cut their raises.
- 461 Common on- stop thinking about your salaries and think of the people who voted for you
- 462 The education budget is padded so much it makes me untrustful of the Vernon board, lets get reasonable.
- 463 It's time to realize that hard desions need to be made. They may mean some people will not get salary increases or lose jobs. We need to understand that the well is going dry; get rid of leaf collection for one.
- 464 Lower property taxes, lower car taxes
- 465 Too high- bring in a tax base to this town. Big box development- then we will talk about a budget!!
- 466 A better job should be done with the money we already have and stop raising taxes on working people.
- 467 Taxed too much. Had enough cut all necessary spending
- 468 Retirement people don't get raises like town employees
- 469 I'm happy to hear the Republicans are watching out for our tax dollars
- 470 Too many special ed teachers merge assists with other towns
- 471 All these taxes for pensions and benefits has got to stop! What about getting back to basics- what happened to sidewalk maintenance in Rockville- is a disgrace
- 472 Education budget way to high- how is it the so called top employees get a \$900+ gift. How about lowering my tax bill this amount. I live on a fixed income and over 84 years old- give us a break- we don't have kids in school- cut our tax liability accordingly.
- 473 Still need to reduce spending more should come from the general government side with a smaller amount from education. 500k reduction would be about right.
- 474 Our property taxes have effectively DOUBLED since we've lived in Vernon! I am currently unemployed - but the town needs more \$\$ from ME? Sorry I can't help at this time. Higher, higher, higher, higher our taxes go. Is there any amount that's going to be enough? We individuals have to cut to make ends meet (out budget is only one small set amount - we have not one to ask for more) Perhaps its time for the town to adopt this same principal
- 475 BOE Budget is too low. Reinstate 2.5 million
- 476 CLEAN HOUSE!
- 477 If I could find some info on the budget I might vote for it. Nothing on Vernon website or in Hartford Courant
- 478 The school budget needs to address the poor quality of the schools and also provide the necessary funds to provide the programs to raise the standards of the schools. It is a disgrace that our schools have such poor rating and image. I raised 2 children in this town and thank God that I don't have to put children into the schools today. This lack of public perception of the Vernon School quality has a direct impact on our housing values and makes attracting new families into our area. If we continue to let the schools decline, our property values compare to neighboring towns will be less valuable. On the Town side, why not take a look at the top heavy administrative salaries in the Mayor's office which have increased over the last Administration and continued under this one!!
- 479 We need to make wise investments in education money/resources should support educational programs and staff. Town services such as Park and Rec need to be supported to a greater extent. These programs and services enhance the quality of life in a town. As a community, we will move forward if we work together with wise investment. I am tired of the bickering and perception of a Town Council that can't work together for a better Vernon!
- 480 I feel that higher _____ town employees are overpaid - also too positions in town government! Not enough Indians too many chiefs

481 The BOE is really trying to bully the taxpayers in this town. Enough is enough. No more money for education
482 Please, please think of our children. I've been a lifelong resident. I went to Vernon schools as well as my children and now grandchildren. Beyond that people will not want to live in a town where the school system isn't what it should be!
483 I am worried that our town's priorities are incorrect. We should not be spending on bonuses for the Superintendent. School ratings are too low!! Property taxes reflect that. We need a new Superintendent and more money for our students.
484 the level of the education budget is unacceptable and inexcusable.
485 How can a town not care enough about their children and the future. Education needs more support.
486 Can't get out of the gutter without paying for it.
487 More money to education. Don't cut employees.
488 We need to invest more into our education system and provide more programs for our youth.
489 Don't cut education
490 BOE should be higher
491 Sick and tired of the republicans presenting a rock bottom budget and low and behold with the 2nd referendum a lower budget, particularly in education. There is a reason we are in the bottom 30 little \$ for education - Wake up!
492 You cut too much better before
493 Spend more on education
494 My greatest concerns are the vote to education. This most influenced my vote much more than the total cost of the budget. We need to fund our schools, and pay our teachers well, to survive this world
495 BOE too low
496 The students need to be supported (sic) This will bring up property values and encourage families to move into Vernon.
497 Need more \$ for our schools
498 Please keep in mind that all expenses are going up. The education must be higher to accommodate. The common core standards as well as special ed. and technology.
499 This town really needs to start working together & stop partisan bickering.
500 Please invest in our town by increasing the education budget.
501 I have a young child in this town that goes to CRS. I want more money to the schools. Talk of teacher cuts is not acceptable. Lets make our schools priority.
502 I would support changes as necessary to support my school in Vernon.
503 Council should stop bullying the voters with threats of cutting the budget every time one is voted down. It could be that voters like me want the budget increased in some ways.

504 The mill rate should not go up more than 3%. It is the largest raise I can get so if I can manage my household on that increase, you should be able also!
505 We cannot make such drastic cuts to the education budget. Doing so is reckless, irresponsible, and not putting students first.
506 Still feel the education budget took too bug a hit this year.
507 Would like to see Board of education higher and not cut. We need to look into magnet schools and why are we paying those kids should or the town the school is located. We are in the bottom 30 of schools and need to improve our children will be at an disadvantage later in life.
508 The amount spent on education is unrealistically low. How can we move out of the bottom 30 and spent (sic) less. Vernon should be ashamed(sic)
509 Bottom 30 School

- 510 We cannot cut the Board of Education budget. We want Vernon to be attractive to people moving in. If not our housing will suffer and we will lose our vitality.
- 511 We need to put as much money as possible back into the Board of Education. We need to value the children in this town and their education.
- 512 I am retired; but I believe everyone is entitled to the opportunity for a good education. We need to spend the \$\$ to attract and keep younger people with kids who need to go to good schools, in order to have a flourishing town.
- 513 We need to keep investing in the school system in the town. Capital improvement in the roads is also necessary and it was not clear to me how much in the town budget is allocated to this maintenance.
- 514 Stop stripping the Ed. Budget. Look around town and count the for sale signs and think about why that is happening.
- 515 More BOE dollars needed MORE MATH/READING specialists more paraprofessionals hurting our kids bad schools hurt property values.
- 516 More should be spent on education.
- 517 Afraid more cuts will be made if not passed.
- 518 The superintendent took 8% raise which should be removed due to poor performance and put back into education budget.
- 519 All day Kindergarten students very poor, need state day long school.
- 520 Budget should be MUCH higher for education. IF that does not change young families like ours will be forced out of the town. Without a diverse demographic this place DOES NOT have any future.
- 521 How can we expect to improve education in this town if we can't pass education budget. These children are going to run our world. Don't we need to get them the best education and teachers possible.
- 522 My condo taxes are ridiculously high and need to be adjusted.
- 523 Voting No does not mean that more money should go toward education. Every year more money goes to education BUT we continually turn out young people that have not received a good education. Lower pay for teachers. Stop the constant contractual increases and have teachers pay more toward their own benefits- i.e. health insurance and pension.
- 524 I do not feel that our taxes should go up again. I think there are other ways to get the money like no raises. In these hard times, I have gotten my pay decreased and have had benefits taken away at my job. Maybe we should take a look at the salaries and benefits.
- 525 The town must find a way to serve the people with less overtime. Overtime is a budget killer!
- 526 Why should town and school employees get raises when so many have wage freezes and are out of work? Let's put the money where it's needed.
- 527 The town has a great P&R program people move to Vernon for education and services. Don't Blow it.
- 528 Think they should have more money for B.O.E.. We have not met the standards in 3 years not to mention Center Rd. has now fallen below req. It is obvious we need a new superinto. Correnct where we need help. The kids now our the future if we don't do the right think how can we expect them to change for the better. The Town of Vernon is slowly diminishing. People are moving out to be in a better school system. We are slowly losing a tight net community. People are looking at the school systems to decide where they want to purchase a home and Vernon is not the Town to move to anymore, please stop hurting the Education of our children and our town.
- 529 I voted yes only because a "no" vote would only slash the education budget further. Don't cut the education budget further.
- 530 Our schools need more \$ in order to make our town worth living in!
- 531 Ballot needs to include Yes/No & why higher- lower or acceptable.
- 532 The BOE budget should be higher. It is saddening that our students and schools continue to lag behind and are at the bottom of the state. If the votes in Vernon truly care about the future of our town and it start with the schools!

- 533 The best education families are are leaving our rural district. Investing more in education will rais our drastically in property values. We are going to magnet, private school or more entirely moving. How unfortunate.
- 534 I hold the Mayor, Superintendent of Schools and any council of BOE members who is publicly or privately responsible for yet another budget mess. Our schools are totally not funded enough. Get rid of teachers coaches and put that money to better use in the schools. You an bet I will be extremely active in the next election to work overtime to elect either an Independent or Democratic Mayor and Council. I am sick and tired of Republicans consistently de-funding our schools and for any democrat who has voted with Republicans. We also need a new Superintendent of schools.
- 535 Schools ar failing why are you continuing to cut them. Be a sound board lose the politics and do what is right. Cut what can be not what your party wants. If needed raise taxes for all.
- 536 Cuts to education and social services was too drastic.
- 537 Increase education spending. Cut "free" programs. Campaign for more industry. Stop wasting money on downtown Rockville and the mills. Our mill rate is higher than glastonbury. Our street hasn't been paved in 26 years.
- 538 It is asd to see the people of this town not supporting the education system!
- 539 We need to think about our children's education. The budget needes to be higher with more money going to education.
- 540 Town needs to invest more time and money in education.
- 541 We need to attract more business to this town to lower the tax mill rate and we really need to support education. Get rid of teachers coaches. We keep paying more taxes and our street is a disaster.
- 542 Leave schools alone and address pay cut or furloughs.
- 543 Less money spent on administrators way to much management.
- 544 I still don't see any tap administration officials being reduced- perhaps 3 or 4 would reduce the budget to an acceptable level.
- 545 Budget is ok now. Should really be a lower amount.
- 546 We will be forced to send our daughter to a magnet school if we don't provide the same education as surrounding towns. Our schools need more! Our children deserve more!
- 547 Time for BOE to live withing its means.
- 548 I don't get raises. There must be a way to keep down expenses.
- 549 As a municipal employee elsewhere, I am not getting an increase myself, to cover the increase you are asking. Please keep to 1 mil inc or less and I will say yes.
- 550 I think it would be helpful to advertize/inform residents about voting in a different manner. Sometimes I don't see the signs (don't drive by) and do not know they voting is occuring. Auto email or mailer would be appreciated.
- 551 The higher the taxes go the closer I get to not beingable to afford to live in this town mortgage started 1200 it is now almost 1600.00 to expensive and time to slow down.
- 552 More ok this budget needs to go to education very disapointed by our local leadership not being able to recognize its importance.
- 553 The board of ed finally made reasonable adjustments to the budget. Any futher cuts will affect the system but additional funds will not help.
- 554 Voted yes so more money would not be cut from Bd of Education budget.
- 555 Support Education.
- 556 If you us to compare with other towns then you need to pay more attention to education!!!!
- 557 Leave BOE alone before you ruin our school system!!

- 558 As a district with schools in the bottom 30, we cannot afford to have any cuts in our BOE budget. If anything, it should be higher. If the school situation doesn't change, we will be applying to Magnet School- how much money can our town afford to pay to magnet schools?! Also, families with children are already leaving- who will be paying all the taxes for the town services if working families leave!
- 559 We need more money for education. Too much politics and not enough leadership.
- 560 Ben Franklin knew that strong public schools means a strong Democracy, therefore a strong America, not just better property values. Stop trying to kill the public schools by starving them of the funds they need to be strong!
- 561 More money should be spent on education in this town. I cannot believe that we are in the bottom 30 % in the state and we are cutting the education budget. Our children's future should be a higher focus. It makes me want to sell my house and move my family out of town- which is sad because i grew up here.
- 562 Need more for education!
- 563 I am angry that there were too many cuts to BOE budget. Why are there so many apartments in vernon to low income and elderly who do not care about education? Where was the town council when planning all of these apartments. We need school aged families to move in to support our schools!
- 564 Please do what it takes to improve the town schools. Results are a must. In addition to poor childrens education the bad results are destroying property value. Stop it before it is too late.
- 565 Raise the education budget!!
- 566 Keep the good teachers please!
- 567 I am disgusted to live in a town that doesn't support education- return the money to BOE
- 568 Do we need to replace retiring asst superintendents lets put money into our failing schools and people won't want to go to magnets.
- 569 Support Education.
- 570 Our schools are running out of materials.
- 571 Please increase the Bd of Ed Budget.
- 572 Restore the money cut from education.
- 573 Help the schools!
- 574 Will never vote for all day kindergarten bo ed england and japan have this and the drop out rate for our education to high school is the worst in the world.
- 575 Stop rewarding administrators when they cant produce results!
- 576 However I voted for the budget to avoid continuing votes. The tax increase is much higher than any salary whereas I might receive and taxes on all levels (federal, state, local) are taking a larger part of my income, thereby decreasing disposable funds to be spent on my family.
- 577 Do more with what you have. More money doesn't equal better education.
- 578 What about the mill rate. Let that also be lower.
- 579 I will continue to vote no to a budget that does not give more support /funding to the BOE budget. It truly disgusts me how little this town thinks of education. Vernon is currently in the bottom 30 and we pay more for magnet schools than we do for own public schools yet this town continues to think that cutting money to the BOE is going to improve this! I would rather my children have a quality funded education than my leaves get picked up or my christmas tree picked up. I hear of more and more people leaving Vernon and quite honestly my family may be next. Put more money back into education! Our children deserve it.

- 580 Think of it this way...if you got a raise @ your job, would the quality of your performance get better? Or would you just pocket the money because you think you deserve it? I really don't think the quality of education will improve if all the teachers got a pay increase like the democrats are demanding and intimidating the town of vernon by saying if they dont make this sacrifice no one will want to move to Vernon because the schools aren't A-list. i think people will move to Vernon if the tax base is reasonable and all are addressed and taken care of. How dare the democrats (incl Thom Didio) belittle us towns people who have no children in the school system to believe the schools will only get better if more moeny goes to them.
- 581 The passing around of false information about voting no to "raise the budget" is just sad!
- 582 Please give the Board of Education more funding to pull us out of the bottom 30 and make Vernon more inviting to young families.
- 583 More \$\$ for education
- 584 I voted yes because after the 1st vote promises were not kept even though it would like more funding. Working our retired. Most incomes are fixed these days. My husband and I have worked second jobs to make ends meet.
- 585 More money for education, not less!
- 586 I voted yes on the budget, but I do believe more money needs to be placed into education.
- 587 Vernon already has a poor reputation. Due to the state of our schools, without more money and significant improvement, our reputation will only get worse.
- 588 We need more money for our children. I do not want to send my children to magnet schools. We have a nice town teachers and students need more \$ to be ready for their future.
- 589 Education is too important to keep cutting money
- 590 Please give the Board of Education more funding.
- 591 We need to have better improved school so the children going to Charter Schools say in town to avoid additional cost.
- 592 Board of Ed Budget is unacceptable- way too high. School headcount should be reduced or schools consolidated if board can't control costs. Town budget was acceptable
- 593 More money should go to education, police and fire. If more cuts are needed something like leaf collection should be cut from budget
- 595 Vernon schools need support. Bottom in state!
- 596 We need to have a competitive school system.
- 597 Better schools are not optional. Creating opportunities for our children to build a strong foundation in learning is essential. It is most essential to the families who have the least in resources from home. Build our future! Fund our schools!!!
- 598 Please stop taking away from our children. Find waysto take from the Town now.
- 599 The Board of Ed. Is not meeting contractual obligations. We are in the bottom 30 in CT and something needs to be done to improve the school system.. Add more money back to education
- 600 By continuing to lower the BOE budget the town will continue to decline along with property values. We will be like East Hartford or worse shortly. In order to keep the town growing and vibrant, the town needs to attract young professionals. By continuing to let the school budget to shrink, that won't happen.
- 601 Figure it youselves!
- 602 Many of the cuts go beyond the basics. Sadly what once was a program that was the pride of this area is now just hanging there. Do not cut necessary arts, music, sports in addition to 3 Rs. Did vote yes only so that no more cuts would be made.
- 603 I will not be blackmailed by Cummings and the republicans. I will continue to vote NO until the eduction budget is increased.
- 604 Waste in education is appalling!

- 605 Even though I am a senior citizen I believe we need to educate our children. Money isn't the only answer but reducing the amount is far from the answer. Politicians producing the lowest possible number is hurting our children and subsequently our property values and quality of life.
- 606 The miserly education budget will hurt Vernon's children and is a detriment to the Town's future.
- 607 Fund education- reinstate the Board's original budget
- 608 We need to support our education system- it is our future!
- 609 More money should be put back into the budget. It's deplorable that our town council and Mayor have so little regard for the children of this town. The kids are our future, we should be giving them the best we have to offer- right now we are offering them the absolute worse we could. Yes we can do it without the luxuries, it smart boards and tablets, but eliminating mid-day bus transportation- are you kidding??? Please consider adding money back into the BOE budget!!
- 610 Public safety and Education need increases.
- 611 Education is a priority for me.
- 612 Were at <30% overall CT. The education budget needs resources.
- 613 We are already in the bottom 30 schools rankings, schools need more support not less \$, selling my house soon before school reputation drops property values even more.
- 614 The education budget should be increased. If monies are needed to be taken from other areas to accomplish this the do 80. I would gladly rather spend \$116,000 on education than leaf collection. Other areas that can be cut are 1200 for awards and prizes from the seniro center budget. Meal allowances can be cut or reduced. The budget for the Senior center is actually a higher amount than what was requested.
- 615 Why is it always the Education Dept cut? How about the amount of people work in offices? There just to many people doing nothing!
- 616 Save our town save our schools, don't cut the school budget
- 617 Reinstate cuts to the education budget as well as the most recent cuts to social services. I am willing to pay higher taxes- we need these programs.
- 618 Less students more money- cut the staff
- 619 Not enough information was provided to allow for a meaningful vote.
- 620 People can not afford constant tax increases. Find another way- cut spending!!! We need our teachers.
- 621 Return \$\$ to BOE
- 622 Return \$\$ to BOE Budget
- 623 Should be higher amount to accommodate full time kindergarten
- 624 More for education- monies needed for books. Bring families to Vernon. Need a good education system. Need to get out of the hole are schools are in. Wake up Vernon
- 625 You should have listened to the towns people the first time and not cutting the school budget
- 626 I am disappointed by the lack of willingness to invest in our childrens education
- 627 Per town size: 80% education 20% Max Town.
Registar voter overpaid 1 % turn out.
Consolidate services: Parks & Rec...to many staff compaired to any town
Imcompetent: duplicate staff= zoning/planning full time or part time, never there??
Planning long term? Smart Growth? Vision for Town?

- 628 I voted yes but only because I do not want any additional \$ taken away from Education Budget! I do not believe voting NO to the budget would result in additional \$ being returned to the budget.
- 629 Please do not cut any more money from the education budget!
- 630
1. Audit Public Works Budget for wase. Too many bosses
 2. Eliminate 2 coordination in district BOE
 3. Eliminate 1 Assistant principle at arts
 4. Add pay for play.
- 631 The town needs to get their priorities in check and cut the budget where appropriate specifically the town ee's benefits. Let them feel the pain as those of us in the public sector. Not continue to cut from education and fire department- those are who we depened on to take care of our families.