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THE
SALEM

48 Pages

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1990

Manchester approves overrides

MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA — Although voters here overwhelmingly defeated a \$1.2 million override of Proposition 2½ last February, it was a different story Monday as three separate overrides totalling \$556,000 were approved.

"What a relief," sighed Selectman chairman Suzanne E. Noble Monday night after voters decided they would raise their taxes above the limits allowed by Proposition 2½, to at least pay for the budget approved at the annual town meeting in May.

Voters approved Question 1, for \$144,200 to prevent the layoff of four police officers and four firefighters, by a margin of 1,499 to 701. Question 2, to prevent cuts of \$193,000 in the school budget, carried 1,211 to 992. And Question 3, excluding \$229,000 of previous debts from Prop 2½ limits, passed 1,159 to 1,045.

Joseph M. Orlando, chairman of the Committee in Support of Manchester Schools, said his group apparently convinced people that "the failures of the state will not become our failures. We've always worked to have a school system of which the community can be proud. Frankly, it's quite gratifying to see the community stand up for our kids."

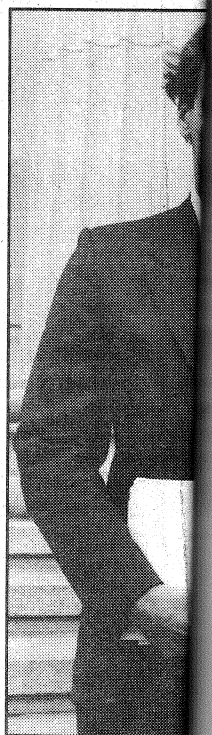
Orlando said there was a "real failure" by the state, and he could understand the anti-tax feeling at the state level. But his group argued, "Why should we let that come here to damage the children of our community? Even if it costs more, we can trust on the local level."

The pro-school override group made extensive telephone calls and staged a parade and rally last weekend. "We worked real hard the last two to three weeks," Orlando said.

Police and firefighters were elated.

A "thank-you" sign was posted at the fire station within minutes after the results were known.

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