

WHY MARBLEHEAD NEEDS ITS POLICE DEPARTMENT

A Case for Safety as a Taxpayer Investment • Marblehead, MA • 2026

Visible patrols deter crime — safety here is earned, not guaranteed.

01 YOUR FINANCIAL STAKE — THE NUMBERS

Crime Down in Marblehead

~ **22%**

Chief King, MPD, 2025

Property Value Impact*

~ **3%**

per std. deviation in crime

Your Insurance Rate

Risk

tied to neighborhood crime

Marblehead's 22% crime reduction is the direct result of active, consistent policing — not luck. Research confirms every rise in local crime puts home values and insurance premiums at risk. Cutting the police budget doesn't just affect public safety — it affects what your home is worth.

INVEST in Marblehead

Full Funding — Override Passes

Tier 1: School Resource Officer retained - builds rapport with students to identify behavioral health needs early; officers receive training in de-escalation and conflict resolution.

Tier 2: Staffing level to 32 Officers. Maintains status quo and minimal staffing levels, continues the leanest staffing on the North Shore

Tier 3: Additional Officer hired - New specialty position will focus on quality of life issues, victim support, traffic safety and community engagement.

Officer morale, retention & recruiting supported — sustainable staffing for long-term department health

Property values & insurance premiums protected — consistent patrols sustain neighborhood safety ratings

Police Accreditation Standards maintained — a professional, accountable department that lowers Town's Insurance rates

No Override

Budget Cuts Take Effect

SRO position eliminated — loss of school mentor, active threat responder, and delinquency investigator, would be only local Community without a SRO

Staffing drops to 30 officers — lowest level ever

Below peer towns with smaller populations — Swampscott and Newburyport both have higher staffing than Marblehead would

Officer morale declines — already the leanest department on the North Shore with only 1 detective; further cuts deepen retention and recruiting challenges

Manning shortfalls worsen — 31 current officers, 1 detective creates coverage gaps that grow under a no-override scenario

02 NON-CRIMINAL SERVICES

Medical & Mental Health: Officers bridge care at emergencies before EMS. MH Clinician follow-ups.

Marblehead TRIAD: Senior wellness checks and engagement with Council on Aging.

Motor Vehicle & Traffic: Accidents, hazards, and parking and selective traffic enforcement.

03 KEEPING CRIME AT BAY

• **Visible Deterrence:** Thousands of property checks annually.

• **Crime Is Active:** Break-ins, fraud, scams, identity theft require investigation.

• **Building Security:** Coordination with local places of worship, residents and businesses for community safety.

04 SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

• **Relationship-Based Safety:** SROs build rapport to identify behavioral health needs early.

• **Community Connections:** Connect families with vital community services, building relationships and long-term trust and support.

• **Taxpayer Benefit for Everyone:** Safe schools protect property values. Keeps patrol officers in your neighborhoods.

05 COMMUNITY

• **Citizens Police Academy:** Transparency and public education.

• **Community Engagement:** Coffee with a Cop, active attendance at community/PCO meetings, faith-based Partnerships.

• **Community Events:** July 4th, Memorial Day, Holiday Walk preparedness and operations.

PROTECTING MARBLEHEAD IS PROTECTING YOUR INVESTMENT.

Crime is down 22% • Property values depend on continued investment • Safety is earned, not guaranteed