

# \$AVE Task Force

*Sustaining a Viable Economy for Berkley*

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## Who We Are

The SAVE Task Force is a group of Berkley residents appointed by the Select Board to study the town's financial struggles.

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## What We're Doing

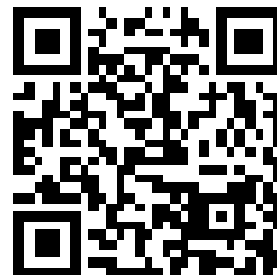
- Reviewing town expenses and revenue
  - Meeting with departments to understand their needs
  - Sharing clear, accurate information with residents
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## Why It Matters

- Berkley's small commercial base means homeowners fund most town services.
- State aid hasn't kept up with rising costs.
- Departments are already at bare minimum staffing — more cuts could eliminate essential services.

## The Problem

- For the past two years, Berkley has used reserve funds to balance the budget
  - These reserves are dwindling quickly, and this approach is not sustainable
  - Major cost drivers we cannot control include:
    - *Health insurance and retirement costs*
    - *State-mandated education assessments*
    - *Contracts for public safety and public works*
    - *Rising utility and infrastructure expenses*
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*SAVE* Berkley.