

TOWN OF LINCOLN, MASSACHUSETTS

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**Saturday, March 23, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.**

**2024 WARRANT**



TOWN OF LINCOLN

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MIDDLESEX, ss

To either of the Constables of the Town of Lincoln in said County:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth you are hereby required to notify the legal voters of said Town of Lincoln qualified to vote at Town Meeting for the transaction of Town Affairs to meet for the **Annual Election (Article 1) at the Reed Gymnasium at the Lincoln School at 6 Ballfield Road in said Lincoln on Monday, the twenty fifth day of March, 2024 next, with the polls to be open at 7:30 a.m. and closed at 8:00 p.m.**, then and there to act on the following Article 1, and also to meet for **the Annual Town Meeting in the Donaldson Auditorium at the Lincoln School at 6 Ballfield Road in said Lincoln on Saturday, the twenty third day of March, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.**, then and there to act on the following articles, except Article 1, by posting a copy of this Warrant, by you attested, in said Town, seven days at least before the 23rd day of March next.

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**Public Health Note:** In recognition of ongoing public health concerns, protective measures are being implemented to enable town meeting to proceed in the safest possible manner. Said measures include following all local Board of Health recommendations.

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**Additional Dates:** In the event that meeting business cannot be completed within the allotted time for the meeting, per the discretion of the moderator, town meeting will be continued on Tuesday, March 26th at 7:00 p.m.

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**Accommodations:** Any person interested in exploring accommodations to enable full participation in town meeting is urged to contact the Select Board's Office at 781-259-2601. Every reasonable attempt will be made to provide the necessary assistance.

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**ARTICLE 1**

To bring in their votes for one or more members of each of the following offices:

- Board of Assessors - one seat for three years
- Board of Health - one seat for three years
- Cemetery Commission - one seat for three years
- Commissioners of Trust Funds - one seat for three years
- Housing Commission - one seat for three years
- Lincoln-Sudbury Regional District School Committee - two seats for three years each
- Parks and Recreation Committee - one seat for three years
- Planning Board - one seat for three years
- K-8 School Committee - two seats for three years
- Select Board - one seat for three years
- Bemis Trustee - one seat for three years
- Water Commissioner - one seat for three years

**BALLOT QUESTION**

**QUESTION 1**

Shall the Town of Lincoln be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition Two-and-One-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued for the purpose of paying the costs of designing, renovating, rebuilding, constructing, equipping, and furnishing a new Community Center to be located in the Hartwell Complex of the Ballfield Road school campus, Lincoln, MA, including payment of costs incidental or related thereto?

**ARTICLE 2**

To bring in their votes for any Committees, Commissioners, Trustees, and other officers required by law to be elected by ballot or otherwise.

Select Board

**ARTICLE 3**

To see if the Town will vote to amend its Zoning Map and Bylaw, Section 12 Overlay Districts by adding a new Section 12.9 titled Multi-Family and Mixed-Use Overlay Districts; and, further, to amend Section 23 Definitions by adding definitions, including: 3A District; Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC); Live/Work Unit; Multi-Family Housing; and Street Activating Uses; and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted to comply with the numbering format of the Town of Lincoln Zoning Bylaw; or take any action relative thereto.

NOTE: This change will create a multi-family overlay district that meets the requirements MGL Chapter 40A, Section 3A; and a mixed-use district that meets the requirements of a mandatory mixed-use district as defined by EOHLC.

Planning Board

**ARTICLE 4**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, borrow, transfer from free cash, stabilization, or other available funds, or any combination thereof, an amount of money to be expended under the direction of the Community Center Building Committee for costs of designing, renovating, constructing, rebuilding, equipping, and furnishing a new Community Center, to be located in the Hartwell complex of Ballfield Road School campus, Lincoln, MA, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto; provided, however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters of a ballot question to exclude the amounts required to pay for the bond and/or any notes issued for said building project from the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2 1/2) if debt is authorized; and further, to authorize the Select Board to enter into agreements with vendors and take whatever action is necessary to lease Town property to be used by a solar energy provider to erect, operate, and maintain solar energy facilities, and to enter into renewable energy power purchase and/or net metering credit or other agreements including contracts in excess of three years, and to take whatever additional action may be required to effectuate said lease and solar agreements; or take any action relative thereto.

Select Board

**ARTICLE 5**

To receive and act on a recommendation from the Select Board with regard to the presentation of the annual Bright Light Award, and to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash a sum of money to support this award; or take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

**ARTICLE 6**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, including stabilization funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof, to purchase an electronic voting system, including the cost of training and maintenance; or take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

**ARTICLE 7**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the necessary and expedient purposes of the Town for Fiscal Year 2025; or take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee

**ARTICLE 8**

To receive and act upon a report of the Capital Planning Committee on the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget, and to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, including stabilization funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof, to purchase and equip various capital items, or to fund capital projects all as recommended by the Capital Planning Committee, including all costs incidental and related thereto; or take any other action relative thereto.

Capital Planning Committee

**ARTICLE 9**

To receive and act upon a report from the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2025 Community Preservation Budget, and to appropriate or reserve for later appropriation monies for the administrative expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, the payment of debt service, the undertaking of Community Preservation projects and all other necessary and proper expenses for the year, and to determine whether such sums shall be raised from the Community Preservation Fund, transferred from available funds, borrowed, or any combination thereof; or take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

**ARTICLE 10**

To see if the Town will vote to implement the special act signed to law pursuant to the action taken by Town Meeting under Article 33 of the May 15, 2021 Annual Town Meeting approving the filing of a home rule petition for a so-called Property Tax Circuit-breaker program, and as subsequently approved by the Legislature, the purpose of which is to provide a property tax exemption to homeowners meeting certain income and asset tests and who have resided in Lincoln for at least five years; and further, to authorize all actions necessary for successful implementation of the program; or take any action relative thereto.

Select Board

**ARTICLE 11**

To receive and act upon the reports of the Town Officers, Committees, Commissioners and Trustees.

Select Board

**ARTICLE 12**

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries and compensation of the several elective officers of the Town; or take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

**ARTICLE 13**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, or otherwise, to fund the Town's Senior Tax Work-off Program, as established pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5K, as it may be amended from time to time; or take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

**ARTICLE 14**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, or otherwise, to fund the Town's Veteran Tax Work-off Program, as established pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5N, as it may be amended from time to time; or take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

**ARTICLE 15**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof, to be used for the repair and maintenance of certain Town buildings, including all costs incidental and related thereto; or take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

**ARTICLE 16**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof, to be used for the repair and maintenance of the Lincoln Library, including all costs incidental and related thereto; or take any other action relative thereto.

Library Trustees

**ARTICLE 17**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds (including any amount appropriated under Article 7) that exceeds the final Lincoln assessment voted no later than July 31<sup>st</sup>, by the Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School Committee for the fiscal year 2025, in accordance with law, by borrowing or any combination thereof, to add funds to the Debt Stabilization Fund, so called, previously established in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 5B at the March 26, 2011 Annual Town Meeting, Article 19, for the purpose of funding future debt service obligations; or take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee

**ARTICLE 18**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof, to add funds to the Group Insurance Liability Fund established by Chapter 474 of the Acts of 2008, which Fund will help offset the Town’s so-called “Other Post-employment Benefits (OPEB)” liability established by Statements 74 and 75 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board; or take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee

**ARTICLE 19**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing or any combination thereof, to add funds, representing Lincoln’s proportionate share of the contribution recommended by the LSRHS School Committee, to the Lincoln Sudbury Regional School District Retirees Health Insurance Trust Fund, established by the acceptance of Chapter 32B, Section 20 of the Massachusetts General Laws, for Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School, which Fund will help offset the High School’s so-called “Other Post-employment Benefits (OPEB)” liability established by Statements 74 and 75 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board; or take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee

**ARTICLE 20**

To see if the Town will vote to accept and expend such sum or sums of money that may be available under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 90 or any other state roadway reimbursement programs and to authorize the Select Board to enter into a contract with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division for such purposes and further to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow in anticipation of 100% reimbursement of said amounts; or take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

**ARTICLE 21**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash a sum of money equal to the state reimbursement amount for Special Education Medicaid expenses to supplement the Fiscal Year 25 Lincoln School operating budget; or take any other action relative thereto.

School Committee

**ARTICLE 22**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from the PEG Access and Cable Revolving Fund, established under Article 32 of the March 19, 2016 Town Meeting, to support cable related purposes consistent with the franchise agreement between cable operators and the Town of Lincoln, including, but not limited to: (i) support of public, educational or governmental access cable television services; (ii) monitor compliance of the cable operator with the franchise agreement; and/or (iii) prepare for renewal of the franchise license; or take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

**ARTICLE 23**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash the amount of settlement funds paid to the town as a result of class action lawsuits, initiated by the Commonwealth on behalf of its municipalities against certain opioid manufacturers and distributors, into a special revenue fund that has been established for this express purpose; and further, that said funds be expended without further appropriation at the direction of the Select Board only for purposes (i.e., addiction prevention, harm reduction, and recovery) identified in said settlement agreement; or take another action relative thereto.

Select Board

**ARTICLE 24**

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Conservation Receipts reserved for Appropriation Account to allow the Conservation Department to undertake a variety of land stewardship projects, including trail head parking lot maintenance, and bridge and boardwalk repairs; or take any other action relative thereto.

Conservation Commission

**ARTICLE 25**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash or any other source of funds a sum of money to reduce the total amount to be raised by taxation pursuant to the votes previously taken under Article 7 of this Warrant, or any other article of this Warrant authorizing the appropriation of funds from taxation; or take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee

**ARTICLE 26**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, including bond proceed balances from previously authorized projects in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c.44, s. 20, and/or borrow a sum of money or any combination thereof, to purchase and equip various capital items, and/or to fund capital projects of the Water Department, as recommended by the Water Commissioners, including all costs incidental or related thereto, and to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow all or a portion of said funds under the provisions of G.L. c.44 or any other enabling authority and to

issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; that such bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the Town unless the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board determines that they should be issued as limited obligations and may be secured by local system revenues as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C, as amended, it being the intent of the Town, however, in either such case that the entire principal of and interest on such bonds or notes shall be paid from water rates and/or surplus; that the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust established pursuant to Chapter 29C, as amended and in connection therewith to enter into a financing agreement and/or security agreement with the Trust and otherwise to contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to such loan and for any federal or state aid available for the project or for the financing thereof; that the Select Board, Board of Water Commissioners or other appropriate local body or officials be authorized to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, to expend all funds available for the project and to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out the projects; or take any other action relative thereto.

#### Water Commission

#### **Article 27**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize and request the Select Board to petition the Massachusetts General Court for special legislation to allow the Town to satisfy requirements for legal notices set forth in the general laws by allowing the publication of notices in local digital newspapers, print media, or both, as the Town shall determine; and, further that the Select Board is authorized to draft said petition on behalf of the petitioners; and, further provided that the General Court may make editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court that are within the scope of the general purpose objectives of this motion; or take any action relative thereto.

#### Citizens' Petition

#### **Article 28**

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following Citizens' Petition:

#### **Citizens Petition for Notice of Proposed Rezoning to Property Owners, Residents and Abutters.**

This petition directs that any Lincoln Town Board, sanctioned group or committee proposing rezoning of an existing district, must notify by mail each property owner, resident and abutter in the area of rezoning 14 days prior to their first public meeting wherein the zoning change would be discussed. Similar notice would also be sent for any future meeting wherein the decision on rezoning may be made as well as any Town Meeting where a vote on rezoning would be conducted. This Notice of Proposed Rezoning shall outline the parameters of the existing district's zoning along with the proposed changes.

The Notice of Proposed Rezoning by the Town would be in the spirit of the current requirement that developers and property owners must notify their neighbors when land use may change. When the Town may rezone an area under its own initiative, the Town should do its best to notify property owners and residents within that area about the specific changes that could impact them personally and financially.

The Notice of Proposed Rezoning would be different from and in addition to any general information mailing because of the detail it would include. The following examples are not intended to represent or provide the exact wording of notice; instead, they show how a general information mailing differs from a specific notice with more detail to an impacted party:

- Example of general information notice through Town-wide Mailing:  
[Town Board, Sanctioned Group or Committee] will be addressing proposed zoning changes in Lincoln on February 1st, 8th and 15th.
- Example of zoning change detail to a property owner, resident, or abutter:  
[Town Board, Sanctioned Group or Committee] will be addressing proposed changes wherein your property currently in an R1 district may be rezoned to be part of a new district with density of 18 units per acre. The first meeting to discuss the proposed rezoning will be on February 8th at 7pm. Please contact [appropriate Town Office email and phone number] with any questions.

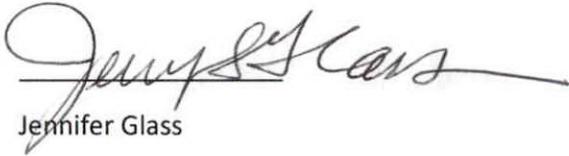
If this Citizen's Petition passes at the March 2024 Town Meeting, the Town is directed to take all additional necessary steps so that the Town Boards, sanctioned committees and groups enact the practice of Notice of Proposed Rezoning outlined above.

Citizens' Petition

Hereof fail not and make return of this Warrant with your doings, thereon to the Town Clerk, at or before the time for the meeting aforesaid. Given under our hands this the 23rd day of February, 2024.



Jim Hutchinson, Chair



Jennifer Glass



Kim Bodnar

**Lincoln Select Board**