

TOWN OF LINCOLN, MASSACHUSETTS

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**Saturday, March 29, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.**

**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 thirty first day of March, 2025 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 ninth day of March, 2025 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 29th day of March next.

---

**Cable Broadcast:** The meeting will be broadcast on Lincoln Cable Access Television, Comcast channel 8 and Verizon channel 33.

---

**Additional Dates:** In the event that meeting business cannot be completed within the allotted time, per the discretion of the moderator, Town Meeting will be continued on Tuesday, April 1st at 7:00 p.m.

---

**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.

---

**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
- Lincoln-Sudbury Regional District School Committee - two seats for three years
- Parks and Recreation Committee - one seat for three years
- Planning Board – two seats for three years
- K-8 School Committee – one seat for two years & one seat for three years
- Select Board - one seat for three years
- Town Clerk- one seat for three years
- Trustees of Bemis Fund - one seat for three years
- Trustees of Lincoln Library - one seat for three years
- Water Commissioner - one seat for three years

**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 use this article as an electronic voting (a.k.a. “clicker”) demonstration vote to help our voters assess the benefits of incorporating electronic voting into our Town Meeting vote counting procedures; or take any action relative thereto.

Select Board

**ARTICLE 4**

To see if the Town will vote to amend its General Bylaw, Article II (Town Meeting), Section 8, to add electronic voting (a.k.a. "clickers) as a method of counting votes at Town Meeting; or take any action relative thereto.

Select Board

**ARTICLE 5**

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

Select Board

**ARTICLE 6**

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 7**

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 8**

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 9**

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 10**

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 11**

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 12**

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 Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School ("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 LSRHS, 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 13**

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 14**

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 26 Lincoln School operating budget; or take any other action relative thereto.

School Committee

**ARTICLE 15**

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 16**

To see if the Town will vote to amend its General Bylaws, Article XXVII, Capital Planning Committee, as follows, with text to be deleted shown in strikethrough and text to be inserted shown in underline:

Four Representative Members, consisting of one appointed by and from each of the Select Board, the School Committee, the Green Energy Committee ~~Conservation Commission~~, and the Library Board.

; or take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

**ARTICLE 17**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer a sum of money from the Conservation Receipts Reserved for Appropriation account to support maintenance and improvements to agricultural conservation land; or take any other action relative thereto.

Conservation Commission

**Article 18**

To see if the Town will vote to amend its General Bylaw, Article XXVIII, Section 1, titled: "Revolving Funds" by inserting in the row entitled "Codman Farm", the following underlined text:

<b>PROGRAM or PURPOSE</b>	<b>REVENUE SOURCE</b>	<b>AUTHORITY TO SPEND FUNDS</b>	<b>USE OF FUNDS</b>
Codman Farmhouse	Lease Fees	Select Board	To defray expenses related to the care and maintenance of the Codman Farmhouse <u>and Barns</u>

; or take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

**Article 19**

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 54(b) to allow Town trust funds to be invested in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 203C, the so-called "Prudent Investor Rule"; or take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee

**Article 20**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to refile the Home Rule Petition approved by the May 15, 2021, Town Meeting providing for the Town to require retail establishments to charge a fee for check out bags, provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approve amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and provided further that the Select Board is hereby authorized to approve such amendments as are within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition; or take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

**ARTICLE 21**

To see if the Town will vote to hear a report from the Linc250th Committee formed by the Select Board to commemorate and celebrate Lincoln's participation in the events of April, 1775 and the start of the American Revolution, and to act on any recommendations it may present; or take any action relative thereto.

Select Board

**ARTICLE 22**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate by taxation, by transfer from available funds or otherwise a sum of money for the necessary and expedient purposes of the Town for Fiscal Year 2026; or take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee

**ARTICLE 23**

To receive and act upon a report of the Capital Planning Committee on the Fiscal Year 2026 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 24**

To receive and act upon a report from the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2026 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 25**

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 22) that exceeds the final Lincoln assessment voted no later than July 31<sup>st</sup>, by the Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School, School Committee for the fiscal year 2026, 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 26**

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 27**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from Free Cash a sum of money to reduce FY 26 debt service payments; or take any other action relative thereto.

Finance Committee

**ARTICLE 28**

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 22 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 29**

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 water 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 Town body or official be authorized to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, to expend all funds available for the projects and to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out the projects; or take any other action relative thereto.

Water Commission

**ARTICLE 30**

To see if the Town will vote to hear a report from the Town Meeting Study Committee (TMSC) and act on any initial recommendations; or take any action relative thereto.

Select Board

**ARTICLE 31**

To see if the Town will vote to amend its Zoning Bylaw, by inserting a new Section 14.4, entitled "Accessory Dwelling Units", to comply with the provisions of Sections 7 and 8 of Chapter 150 of the Acts of 2024, the Affordable Homes Act ("Act"), amending G.L. c.40A, §§1A and 3, and implementing regulations promulgated by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, Section 760 CMR 71.00, which allow Accessory Dwelling Units as defined in the Act as "not larger in Gross Floor Area than ½ of the Gross Floor area of the Principal Dwelling or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller", by right; 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 other action relative thereto.

Planning Board

**ARTICLE 32**

To see if the Town will vote to amend its Zoning Bylaw, Section 14, Special Housing Provisions, to include revising the definition of "Accessory Apartment" and "Affordable Accessory Apartment" to clearly differentiate Accessory Apartments from the new state law definition of "Accessory Dwelling Unit", as described in Article 31, amending Section 14.3.2 to remove the cap on the allowable number of Accessory Apartments, changing references to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC), capitalizing references to "Accessory Apartment" for consistency, 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 other action relative thereto.

Planning Board

**ARTICLE 33**

To see if the Town will vote to amend its Zoning Bylaw and Map, Section 12.3, entitled "Flood Plain District" as follows: By deleting the existing section 12.3 in its entirety and replacing it with new text and references to updated Maps to comply with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's standards for the National Flood Insurance Program, updated in 2020; or take any other action relative thereto.

Planning Board

**ARTICLE 34**

To see if the Town will vote to accept Clauses Twenty-second I and Twenty-second J Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 59, Section 5, Clauses Twenty-second I and Twenty-second J, added by Section 23 of Chapter 178 of the Acts of 2024, An Act Honoring, Empowering and Recognizing Our Service Members and Veterans, known as the HERO Act, for the purpose of expanding property tax exemptions available to qualifying military veterans under existing state law; or take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

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 24th day of February, 2025.



Kim Bodnar, Chair



Jennifer Glass



Jim Hutchinson

**Lincoln Select Board**