

TOWN OF WORCESTER WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

MARCH 2, 2021

The legal voters of the Town of Worcester are hereby notified and warned that all Articles normally voted during the Town Meeting will be decided by Australian Ballot. Voting will take place on March 2, 2021 at the Town Offices from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Early voting is available by contacting the Town Clerk.

The Vermont Legislature voted to allow Towns to do this for 2021 only. (S.354 No. 162)

To act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1. To elect the following Town Officers:

- Town Moderator one year
- Town Clerk one year
- Treasurer one year
- Select Person three years
- Lister three years
- Delinquent Tax Collector one year
- Town Constable one year
- Cemetery Commissioner three years

ARTICLE 2. Shall the voters of the town of Worcester have all property taxes paid to the Treasurer at the Town Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on or before Wednesday, September 15, 2021 (Town Tax) and on or before Monday, November 15, 2021 (School Tax) **regardless of postmark** and, to charge a one-time penalty of 8% and interest at 1% per month or any part of a month on overdue taxes from the due date of the tax, as provided by law?

ARTICLE 3. Shall the voters of the town of Worcester approve a town budget of \$737,396.75?

ARTICLE 4. Shall the voters of the town of Worcester approve an appropriation in the total amount of \$9,898.00, as follows?

| | |
|---|---------|
| American Legion: | \$150 |
| Central Vermont Adult Basic Education: | \$575 |
| Central Vermont Council on Aging: | \$600 |
| Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice: | \$2,000 |
| Circle: | \$375 |
| Family Center of Washington County: | \$400 |
| Good Beginnings of Central Vermont: | \$300 |
| Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County: | \$800 |
| Montpelier Senior Activity Center: | \$2,500 |
| Mosaic: | \$300 |
| Our House: | \$250 |
| People's Health & Wellness Clinic: | \$700 |
| Vermont Center for Independent Living: | \$200 |
| Washington County Youth Service Bureau: | \$200 |
| Green Mountain Transit: | \$548 |

ARTICLE 5. Shall the voters of the town of Worcester approve an appropriation for the Kellogg-Hubbard Library in the amount of \$16,677.00 for the calendar year of 2021?

ARTICLE 6. Shall the voters of the town of Worcester authorize that the sum total of Articles 3 through 5 receiving positive votes, be raised on the Grand List of 2021 to pay the expenses and indebtedness of the Town?

ARTICLE 7. Shall the voters of the town of Worcester increase the 2021 Veterans' Exemption (for disabled veterans per the Veterans Administration) in the amount of \$10,000 to the amount of \$20,000, said exemption amount to be voted on every year?

ARTICLE 8. Shall the voters of the town of Worcester authorize to hold any audited fund balance as of December 31, 2020 in capital reserve funds to be expended under the control and direction of the Selectboard for the purpose of operating the town?

Dated at Worcester, Vermont this 18th day of January 2021.

Worcester Selectboard:

/S/ _____
James T. Lamb, Chair

/S/ _____
Roger Strobridge

/S/ _____
Cheri Goldstein

Filed in Town Clerk's Office on January 20, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. and duly recorded before posting.

Attest: Katie Winkeljohn, Town Clerk

NOTICE TO VOTERS FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS

BEFORE TOWN MEETING DAY:

VOTER CHECKLIST POSTED on the website at worcestervt.org and at Worcester Town Office by January 31, 2021. If your name is not on the checklist, then you must register to vote. **SAMPLE BALLOTS** will be posted by February 10, 2021.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE:

There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. You can register prior by contacting the Worcester Town Office 223-6942 or going online to olvr.sec.state.vt.us.

REQUEST EARLY or ABSENTEE BALLOTS:

All voters on the Worcester checklist as of January 31, 2021 who are not challenged, will be mailed an absentee ballot to the address listed on the checklist. You or a family member can request early or absentee ballots at any time during the year of the election in person, in writing, by telephone, email, or online at mvp.sec.state.vt.us. The latest you can request ballots for the Town Meeting Election is the close of the Worcester Town Office on Monday, March 1, 2021 by 4 pm. (Any other person authorized by you who is not a family member must apply in writing or in person for a ballot for you.)

WAYS TO VOTE YOUR EARLY BALLOT:

- Due to COVID, you may NOT vote in the Worcester Town Office before the deadline.
- Voter may have ballots mailed, and mail or deliver it back to the Worcester Town Office before Town Meeting Day or to the polling place (Town Office) before 7:00 p.m. on Town Meeting Day.
- If you are sick or disabled, you may request an electronically delivered ballot before Town Meeting Day or ask the town clerk to have two justices of the peace bring a ballot to you at your home only if it is possible to comply with COVID protocol. (Ballots can be delivered on any of the eight days preceding the day of the election or on the day of election.)

ON ELECTION DAY:

If your name was dropped from the checklist in error, or has not been added even though you submitted a timely application for addition to the checklist, you can fill out a new registration form.

- If the clerk or Board of Civil Authority does not add your name, you can appeal the decision to a superior court judge, who will settle the matter on Election Day. Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683) for more information.

If you are a first-time voter who submitted your application to the checklist individually by mail and did not submit the required document, you must provide a current and valid photo identification, or a bank statement, utility bill, or government document that contains your name/current address.

If you have physical disabilities, are visually impaired or can't read, you may have assistance from any person of your choice. If any voters you know have disabilities let them know they can have assistance from any person of their choice.

If you know voters who cannot get from the car into the polling place let them know that ballot(s) may be brought to their car by two election officials.

If you have any questions or need assistance while voting, ask your town clerk or any election official for help.

NO PERSON SHALL:

- Vote more than once per election, either in the same town or in different towns.
- Mislead the board of civil authority about your own or another person's true residency or other eligibility to vote.
- Hinder or impede a voter going into or from the polling place.
- Socialize in a manner that could disturb other voters in the polling place.
- Offer bribe, threaten or exercise undue influence to dictate or control the vote of another person.

FOR HELP OR INFORMATION: Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683). (Accessible by TDD)

If you believe that any of your voting rights have been violated, you may file an Administrative Complaint with the Secretary of State's Office, 128 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633.

If you believe you have witnessed efforts to commit any kind of fraud or corruption in the voting process, you may report this to your local United States Attorney's Office.

If you have witnessed actual or attempted acts of discrimination or intimidation in the voting process, you may report this to the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice at (800) 253-3931.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTERS using Australian Ballots

**Voting in-person at Worcester Town Office, 20 Worcester Village Road on
Tuesday, March 2, 2021**

IF YOU WERE MAILED A BALLOT, BRING IT WITH YOU. IF YOU LOST THE BALLOT, ALERT THE ELECTION OFFICIAL. CHECK-IN AND RECEIVE BALLOTS:

- Go to the entrance checklist table. One voter allowed in at a time.
- Give name and, if asked, street address to the election official in a loud voice.
- Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the official.
- An election official will give you a ballot.
- Enter within the voting area and go to a vacant voting booth.

MARK YOUR BALLOT: For each office listed on the ballot, you will see instructions to "Vote for not more than one, or Vote for not more than two, etc."

- To vote for a candidate, fill in the oval to the right of the name of the candidate you want to vote for.
- WRITE-IN candidate(s). To vote for someone whose name is not printed on the ballot, use the blank "write-in" lines on the ballot and either write-in the name or paste on sticker, then fill in the oval.

CHECK OUT:

CAST YOUR VOTE by depositing your voted ballot in "Voted Ballots" box or tabulator.

LEAVE the voting area immediately and exit the building.

NOTICE AND AGENDA
Town of Worcester Annual Meeting
Public Informational Hearing
Monday, February 22, 2021

The legal voters of the Town of Worcester are hereby notified and warned that the Selectboard for the Town of Worcester will hold a public informational hearing on Monday, February 22th at 6:30 pm.

The purpose of this public informational hearing is to review and discuss Articles 3 -8 as presented on the 2021 Town of Worcester Annual Meeting Warning. Voting on all Articles presented on the Warning, including the election of officers, will take place by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 2, 2021. For information on the Annual Meeting and Australian ballot voting, please see the Warning and Notice to Voters posted herewith.

This public informational hearing will be conducted remotely via electronic means. Instructions for online connection are below the Agenda.

--AGENDA--

Call to order.

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HOW TO CONNECT:

Topic: Worcester Town Meeting - Public Informational Hearing

Time: Feb 22, 2021 6:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please test your software in advance of the meeting to ensure a proper connection.

Join Zoom Meeting Connecting by Computer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7722544134?pwd=aTd0Y2x2KzIUUVZObVVCRkZQQ0ZFQT09>

Meeting ID: 772 254 4134 By Phone:+1 (646) 558-8656