

INFORMATION FOR VOTERS

TOWN OF GROTON



**SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION
NOVEMBER 7, 2023
BALLOT QUESTION BOOKLET**

**Published by the
Town of Groton, Select Board**

Town of Groton (MA)
2023 Special Town Election
Voting Information

- **Special Town Election**
 - Groton is holding a Special Town Election on **Tuesday, November 7, 2023**
 - **Polls will be open from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM**
 - Polling Locations:
 - Precinct 1: The Center, 163 West Main Street (Route 225)
 - Precinct 2: GD Middle School South Gymnasium, 344 Main Street
 - Precinct 3: GD Middle School South Gymnasium, 344 Main Street**Precinct 3A was merged with Precinct 1 effective September 27, 2023*

- **Purpose of the Special Town Election**
 - To Vote on a Proposition 2 ½ Debt Exclusion Question (explanation contained within this information booklet)

- **Vote by Mail Ballots & Absentee Ballots**
 - Vote by Mail ballots are available for the Special Election.
 - The last day and hour to request a **ballot by mail** is Tuesday, October 31, 2023 by 5:00 PM.
 - Vote by Mail Ballots **must be received** by the Clerk's office by the close of polls (7:00 PM) on Tuesday November 7, 2023. Ballots can be left in the drop box outside the back door of Town Hall or hand delivered to the Clerk's Office.
 - The last day and hour to vote by **Absentee Ballot in person** is Monday, November 6, 2023 by 12:00 PM.
 - Please allow time for mailing or be prepared to vote at the Polls on Election Day.

- **In-Person Early Voting**
 - In-Person Early Voting is available for the Special Election at the Town Clerk's Office, 173 Main Street.
 - The Hours as are follows:

▪ Saturday	October 28	12PM to 6PM
▪ Monday	October 30	8AM to 7PM
▪ Tuesday	October 31	8AM to 4PM
▪ Wednesday	November 1	8AM to 4PM
▪ Thursday	November 2	8AM to 4PM
▪ Friday	November 3	8AM to 1PM

- **Election and Voter information**
 - If you would like to check on your voter registration, polling location or have another voting related question, please contact the Town Clerk's office
 - Office: 978-448-1100
 - Email: townclerk@grotonma.gov
 - Web: <https://www.grotonma.gov/election-information/>

**BALLOT QUESTION INFORMATION
FOR NOVEMBER 7, 2023
SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION**

As authorized by Chapter 53, Section 18B of the Massachusetts General Laws

WHY ARE YOU RECEIVING THIS INFORMATION?

In towns that accept the provisions of Section 18B, as Groton did by vote of the 2015 Spring Town Meeting, the Select Board is required to print and mail to each household where a registered voter resides information relating to each question that will appear on the town election ballot. The information must include (1) the full text of each question; (2) a fair and concise summary of each question, including a one sentence statement describing the effect of a yes or no vote, prepared by the town counsel; and (3) arguments for and against each question, which may not exceed 150 words. When a voter question will appear on the ballot, the statute provides for a request by the town counsel for "written arguments from the principal proponents and opponents of the question," with a notice period of at least 7 days. The statute also provides that the principal proponents and principal opponents shall be the persons determined by the town counsel to be best able to present the arguments for and against the question. If no argument is received from a proponent or opponent, an argument must be prepared by the town counsel.

Ballot Question #1:

Shall the Town of Groton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued for the purpose of financing the planning, designing, permitting, and constructing of a new water main from the Groton Water Distribution System to the Groton-Dunstable Regional High School and on Kemp Street and Groton Street in Dunstable and a portion of North Street in Groton in order to bring potable drinking water to the School and private homes, required for the treatment of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in said water supply sources and to improve the water systems of Groton, Dunstable and Pepperell by expanding municipal fire protection, head off a potential PFAS plume spread, and increase water system resilience by establishing emergency interconnections between the three systems, and all other costs incidental and related thereto?

YES _____ NO _____

Summary of Question #1:

Article 12 of the 2023 Spring Town Meeting approved funding for the extension of municipal drinking water to the Groton Dunstable Regional High School and the surrounding properties in Dunstable on Groton Street and Kemp Street and on North Street in Groton to address PFAS groundwater contamination at the High School. A new water source for the High School and surrounding properties is necessary to address this issue. Since that time, the Towns of Groton, Dunstable and Pepperell have been working on a regional solution to both address PFAS contamination at the High School and expand municipal fire protection, head off potential PFAS plume spread, and increase water system resilience. The Spring Town Meeting approved \$16.7 million for this project. Prior to spending any funds appropriated under Article 12, the Select

Board is requesting that the debt service for this project be subject to a debt exclusion pursuant to G.L. c.59, §21 (Proposition 2½). A debt exclusion is a temporary increase in the tax levy, which expires once the Town has paid off the project's debt.

EFFECT OF A YES OR NO VOTE:

A YES VOTE will allow the Town to borrow funds necessary to design, engineer, and construct a water main to provide potable drinking water to the Groton Dunstable Regional High School (GDRHS) and surrounding affected homes.

A NO VOTE will not allow the Town to borrow funds necessary to design, engineer, and construct a water main to provide potable drinking water to the Groton Dunstable Regional High School (GDRHS) and surrounding affected homes.

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR AND AGAINST QUESTION #1:

IN FAVOR: A YES vote on Question #1

Voting in favor of this debt exclusion question, will allow the Town to borrow the necessary funds to design, engineer and construct a new water main to provide potable drinking water to the GDRHS and surrounding homes in Dunstable affected by PFAS. PFAS and its impacts are expanding rapidly. Exceeding the State and Federal levels of PFAS pose a tremendous risk to our community and environment and is tied to developmental defects, cancers and immune system issues, even at very low levels. A yes vote will not only provide much needed clean water to the students, staff and visitors at the High School and those residents who currently have contaminated wells nearby but also help to reduce further spread of the contamination. It should also be noted that the Town is seeking any and all additional funding sources such as interest free loans and grants to offset the cost.

AGAINST: A NO vote on Question #1

By voting against this debt exclusion question, you will ultimately be asking the Select Board to find a more cost-effective solution to remedy the PFAS contamination. The residents and taxpayers of Groton are being inundated with higher taxes for many projects, including the new Florence Roche Elementary School. In addition, the Town may be facing an operational override for the next Fiscal Year which will drive taxes even higher. Our Senior Citizens are being priced out of Town. The Select Board, as the Chief Elected Board in Town, must do everything in their power to come up with a more cost-effective solution.

TEST 2023-09-20 09:13:41



**EARLY / ABSENTEE
OFFICIAL BALLOT
SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION
GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS
NOVEMBER 7, 2023**

Devin Dunbar
TOWN CLERK

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this: ●

BALLOT QUESTION

Shall the Town of Groton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued for the purpose of financing the planning, designing, permitting, and constructing of a new water main from the Groton Water Distribution System to the Groton-Dunstable Regional High School and on Kemp Street and Groton Street in Dunstable and a portion of North Street in Groton in order to bring potable drinking water to the School and private homes, required for the treatment of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in said water supply sources and to improve the water systems of Groton, Dunstable and Pepperell by expanding municipal fire protection, head off a potential PFAS plume spread, and increase water system resilience by establishing emergency interconnections between the three systems, and all other costs incidental and related thereto?

YES

NO

**TOWN OF GROTON COMMITTEE
INTEREST FORM**

Town Government needs citizens who are willing to give time in the service of their community. If you are interested in serving, on a voluntary basis, on boards and committees within the Town, please complete this form and return to:

**TOWN OF GROTON, SELECT BOARD
173 MAIN STREET, GROTON, MA 01450**

Date: _____

Name _____
 First M.I. Last

Mailing Address _____

Circle One GROTON, 01450 WEST GROTON, 01472

Telephone No. (home) _____ (cell) _____

Preferred e-mail Address _____

Occupation _____

Background _____

Specific committees in which you are interested:

Department Name	Vacancies
Agricultural Commission	2
Cable Advisory Committee	1
Capital Planning Advisory Committee	1
Commission on Accessibility	2
Complete Streets Committee	1
Destination Groton Committee	1
Great Pond Advisory Committee	3
Groton Sewer Commission	1
Historic District Commission	3
Housing Authority	1
Housing Partnership	2
Local Cultural Council	3
Old Burying Ground Commission	2
Personnel Board	1
Scholarship Committee	1
Sustainability Commission	2
Zoning Board of Appeals (Alternate Member)	1

Town of Groton
Select Board
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Groton, MA 01450
PERMIT #3

RESIDENTIAL POSTAL PATRON GROTON, MA