

IMPORTANT INFORMATION RELATIVE TO THE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 TOWN OPERATING BUDGET, INCLUDING THE ASSESSMENT OF THE GROTON DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Town of Groton is facing an unprecedented financial future. Tax revenue increases allowed under Proposition 2½ and Aid received from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have not kept up with inflation and the many obligations of the Town of Groton and the Groton Dunstable Regional School District. The Town of Dunstable is facing similar issues. To address this, the Towns of Groton and Dunstable, along with the Groton Dunstable Regional School District, began working on the development of the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget in the summer of 2023. This is the earliest the budget process has ever started. Based on this work, it was determined that additional revenues would be required to, not only balance the FY 2025 Budget, but Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 as well.

Both Groton and Dunstable will need an Override of Proposition 2½ to balance the next three fiscal year budgets. As we have been working cooperatively over the last several months to address our shared financial difficulty, it was determined that both Towns would vote their respective budgets and vote on an Override on the same days. To accommodate this, the Town of Groton needed to move its Spring Town Meeting up to March 26, 2024 as the Groton Charter requires the Operating Budget (in this case, the FY 2025 Budget) to be voted only at the Spring Town Meeting. This was done to coincide with Dunstable's Special Town Meeting held on the same day for them to vote their FY 2025 Operating Budget. Both Towns have also scheduled Override votes on April 2, 2024. Please note that regardless of what happens at Town Meeting, the Special Override Vote will take place on April 2, 2024. These are unprecedented times and the cooperation between Groton and Dunstable has never been stronger.

Please note that Groton's Bylaw requires the Annual Election of Town Officers to be held on the fourth Tuesday after the first night of the Spring Town Meeting. This puts another election three weeks later on April 23, 2024. There is no ballot question for an Override on the April 23, 2024 Annual Election of Officers. The Override vote will be held at the Special Election on April 2nd, the same day as the Override vote in Dunstable. Please contact the Town Manager's Office at 978-448-1111 or by email at townmanager@grotonma.gov with any questions you may have on this process. The following is important election information prepared by Groton's Town Clerk. Please pay close attention to the registration deadlines to be eligible to vote at the March 26, 2024 Spring Town Meeting, April 2, 2024 Special Override Election and the April 23, 2024 Annual Town Election.

Important Upcoming Election Information

The Spring Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 beginning at 7:00 pm at the GD Performing Arts Center. ***In order to be eligible to vote at Town Meeting, you will need to register to vote by 5:00pm on Friday, March 15, 2024.***

There will be a Special Election on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 with polls open from 7:00 am-8:00 pm. This ballot will have a single ballot question requesting a Municipal and School Operational Override to Proposition 2 ½. Precinct 1 will vote at The Center, 163 West Main Street and Precincts 2 and 3 will

vote at the GD Middle School South Gymnasium, 344 Main Street. ***In order to be eligible to vote at the Special Election, you will need to register to vote by 5:00pm on Saturday, March 23, 2024.***

- Vote by Mail will be available for this Special Election. You must request a ballot by mail no later than 5:00pm on Tuesday, March 26, 2024. (If you returned a post card to receive a ballot for ALL ELECTIONS this year, you will automatically be mailed one.)
- In Person Early Voting will also be available for this election through the Town Clerk's Office. Hours are as follows:

<u>Day of the Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Saturday	March 23	9AM to 3PM
Monday	March 25	8AM to 7PM
Tuesday	March 26	8AM to 4PM
Wednesday	March 27	8AM to 4PM
Thursday	March 28	8AM to 4PM
Friday	March 29	8AM to 1PM

The Annual Town Election will be held on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 with polls open from 7:00 am-8:00 pm. This ballot will ask voters to vote on the Town's Elected Offices. Precinct 1 will vote at The Center, 163 West Main Street and Precincts 2 and 3 will vote at the GD Middle School South Gymnasium, 344 Main Street. ***In order to be eligible to vote at the Annual Town Election, you will need to register to vote by 5:00pm on Friday, March 15, 2024.***

- Vote by Mail will be available for this Annual Town Election. You must request a ballot by mail no later than 5:00pm on Tuesday, April 16, 2024. (If you returned a post card to receive a ballot for ALL ELECTIONS this year, you will automatically be mailed one.)
- In Person Early Voting will also be available for this election through the Town Clerk's Office. Hours are as follows:

<u>Day of the Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Saturday	April 13	9AM to 3PM
Monday	April 15	8AM to 7PM
Tuesday	April 16	8AM to 4PM
Wednesday	April 17	8AM to 4PM
Thursday	April 18	8AM to 4PM
Friday	April 19	8AM to 1PM