

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF WESTFORD
WARRANT**

Middlesex, ss.

To the Constable of the Town of Westford, in said County,

GREETINGS:

You are required in the name of the Commonwealth aforesaid, to notify and warn all inhabitants of said Town qualified to vote in elections, and also in Town affairs, to meet at Westford Academy at 30 Patten Road on the following date:

Saturday, March 28, 2026

(voter registration deadline, Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 5:00 pm)

at 9:00 o'clock in the morning, then and there to act upon the following articles:

REPORTS

ARTICLE 1: Accept Town Reports

Town Manager

To see if the Town will vote to accept the Reports of Town Officers, Boards and Committees for the Fiscal Year 2025;

Or act in relation thereto.

FINANCIAL - FISCAL YEAR 2026

ARTICLE 2: Approve Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Supplemental Appropriations and Transfers

Town Manager

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds, or any combination thereof, sums of money in order to adjust the Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budgets;

Or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 3: Appropriate for Perchlorate Expenses

Town Manager

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds, or any combination thereof, a sum of money for the purpose of providing funds to address associated issues regarding perchlorate contamination;

Or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 4: Appropriate for Energy Efficiency Projects

Town Manager

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds, or any combination thereof, a sum of money for the purpose of performing capital improvement projects within town and school facilities for the purpose of improving energy efficiency, which projects may include, but not be limited to: lighting improvement projects, transformer upgrades, weatherization, and other energy efficiency projects and conservation measures; and to authorize the Town Manager to authorize the use of such funds for projects within town facilities and the School Superintendent to authorize the use of such funds for projects within school facilities;

Or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 5: Appropriate Funding for the Cameron Senior Center HVAC Project *Town Manager*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds, or any combination thereof, an additional sum of money for the purpose of providing funds to undertake certain HVAC energy conservation and related improvements at the Cameron Senior Center, including costs incidental and related thereto;

Or act in relation thereto.

ADMINISTRATIVE

ARTICLE 6: Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement for the Blanchard School Solar Panels - Ameresco *Select Board*

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board and the Board of Assessors to negotiate and execute a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreement pursuant to MGL c. 59 Section 38H(b) and the Department of Revenue guidelines promulgated thereunder, or any other enabling authority, with respect to annual payments in lieu of personal taxes for a term of years, including a term of twenty (20) years or more, relative to a parcel of land located at 14 West Street, Westford, MA as shown on Assessors map 029-0002-0000, with respect to a Solar Photovoltaic Electricity Generating Facility, with an expected capacity of approximately .582 Megawatts which has been installed, owned and operated by a third party upon said parcel on such terms and conditions as the Select Board, in consultation with the Board of Assessors, deems to be in the best interest of the Town; and further to authorize the Select Board to enter into any and all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary on behalf of the Town to undertake the purpose of this article;

Or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 7: Rescind Authorized and Unissued Debt *Town Manager*

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the following amount that has been authorized to be borrowed for the following purpose, pursuant to the vote and article as listed below, which amount has not been issued and/or is no longer needed;

<i>Unissued Amount</i>	<i>Date of Warrant Approval</i>	<i>Article Number</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
\$1,040,000	06/11/2022	5	Public Safety Digital Radios

Or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 8: Adopt the Prudent Investor Rule *Town Manager*

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of MGL c. 44, Section 54(b) to allow Town trust funds to be invested in accordance with MGL c. 203C, the so-called "Prudent Investment Rule", which will offer the Town more flexibility for investing trust funds in higher yield investments than is currently allowed;

Or act in relation thereto.

CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS - FISCAL YEAR 2026

ARTICLE 9: Approve Capital Appropriations *Capital Planning Committee*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds, or any combination thereof, the sum of \$8,442,841 (EIGHT MILLION FOUR HUNDRED FORTY TWO THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY ONE DOLLARS), or any other sum, to provide for the following capital requests and all costs incidental and related thereto, and, further, to authorize the Select Board to enter into all agreements and take all related actions necessary or appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this vote:

<i>DEPARTMENT</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>	<i>PURPOSE</i>
Town Manager	\$100,000	Townwide digitization project
Technology	\$50,000	Town computer replacements
Technology	\$383,689	School computer replacements
Technology	\$200,000	Network upgrades
Technology	\$230,000	Replace the Wi-Fi in the Middle Schools and Westford Academy
Technology	\$200,000	Replace the telephone system servers
Public Buildings	\$330,000	51 Main Street building stabilization and reuse project
Public Buildings	\$22,000	Nabnasset Fire Station generator replacement
Public Buildings	\$14,000	Replace the sprinkler system dry valve at the Cameron Senior Center
Public Buildings	\$564,000	30 Beacon Street roof replacement and building stabilization project
Public Buildings	\$112,000	28 North Street Department of Public Works fire pump replacement
Police	\$72,915	VHF/UFH dual band portable radios
Fire and Ambulance Enterprise	\$75,000	Thermal imaging cameras
Fire	\$110,000	Vehicle replacement - officer vehicle, purchase and equip
Schools	\$95,000	Replacement vehicle - plow truck, purchase and equip
Schools	\$90,000	Kubota tractor, purchase and equip
Schools	\$28,000	Fire alarm control panel replacement at the Miller School
Schools	\$37,000	Fire alarm control panel replacement at the Nabnasset School
DPW – Engineering	\$650,000	Littleton Road widening project design
DPW – Engineering	\$1,000,000	Pleasant Street and Patten Road sidewalk construction
DPW – Highway	\$330,000	Vehicle Replacement – Front End Loader, purchase and equip
DPW – Highway	\$300,000	Vehicle replacement – 6-wheel dump truck with plow, purchase and equip
DPW – Highway	\$240,000	Equipment replacement – wheeled excavator, purchase and equip
Water Enterprise	\$151,000	Equipment replacement – backhoe, purchase and equip
Water Enterprise	\$1,000,000	Repair or replacement of high head and backwash pumps at the Forge Village Road and Nutting Road Water Treatment Plants
Water Enterprise	\$125,000	Replacement of the Nutting Road Treatment Plant dehumidifiers
Water Enterprise	\$37,237	Installation of a third remote meter reading collector
Stormwater Enterprise	\$330,000	Design: Culvert replacements located on Old Homestead Road and Long Meadow Road
Stormwater Enterprise	\$30,000	Robotic total station survey equipment
Stormwater Enterprise	\$1,500,000	Construction: Boutwell Brook culvert replacements located on Forge Village Road and Cold Spring Road

Or act in relation thereto.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS

ARTICLE 10: Approve Community Preservation Committee Recommendations

Community Preservation Committee

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Community Preservation Committee on the Fiscal Year 2026 Community Preservation budget and to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund a sum of money not exceeding 5% of the Fiscal Year 2026 estimated annual revenues to meet the administrative expenses and all other necessary and proper expenses of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2026; and further to reserve for future appropriation a sum of money from the Community Preservation Fund for open space, historic resources, community housing purposes, and outdoor recreation, and further to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund or borrow pursuant to MGL c. 44B, Section 11, or any other enabling authority, a sum or sums of money for Community Preservation projects or purposes, including acquisition of interests in land, all as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee;

Or act in relation thereto.

FINANCIAL-FISCAL YEAR 2027

ARTICLE 11: Amend the Wage and Classification Plan

Town Manager

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Fiscal Year 2027 Pay Classification Plan for non-unionized municipal employees, effective July 1, 2026;

Or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 12: Authorize Revolving Funds

Town Manager

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to MGL c. 44, Section 53E ½ as most recently amended by Section 86 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, to establish limitations on expenditures from the revolving funds established by Chapter 138 of the General Bylaws, entitled, "Revolving Funds", with changes emphasized in ~~strike through~~ and **bold**, as follows:

Revolving Account	FY 2027 Expenditure Limit
Lease of Town Buildings: 65 & 73 Main St & 170 Plain Rd	\$200,000 \$150,000
Electric Vehicle Charging Station Revolving	\$10,000
Recycling Revolving	\$40,000
Recreation Field Maintenance	\$150,000
Senior Center Fitness Room	\$25,000
Senior Center Programs	\$90,000 \$65,000
School Parking	\$80,000
School Bus/Transportation	\$950,000
East Boston Camps Maintenance	\$80,000
Immunizations and Clinical Services	\$100,000
Community Gardens	\$15,000
Town Forest Management	\$25,000

Or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 13: Approve Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget *Town Manager*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds, or any combination thereof, for the operation and maintenance of Town Departments for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, and that such sums be expended for such purposes under the direction of the respective Town Officers, Boards and Committees;

Or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 14: Appropriate Chapter 90 Local Transportation Funds for Roadway Maintenance and Other Eligible Expenses *Town Manager*

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from the proceeds due to the Town under the provisions of MGL c. 90 for the purposes set forth in said Chapter;

Or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 15: Appropriate Funds from Water Enterprise Other Post Employment Benefits Stabilization Fund to the Water Enterprise Budget *Water Commissioners*

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Water Enterprise Other Post Employment Benefits Stabilization Fund to Water Enterprise expenses to pay for the Fiscal Year 2027 retiree benefits;

Or act in relation thereto.

EASEMENTS

ARTICLE 16: Authorize the Select Board to Accept Easements *Select Board*

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, during Fiscal Year 2027, to accept any and all easements for sidewalk, drainage, utility purposes, public access to trails, or other public purposes as they may deem in the Town's best interests;

Or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 17: Authorize the Select Board to Accept Easements along and/or near Forge Village Road *Select Board*

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise, on such terms and conditions as the Select Board shall determine, permanent and/or temporary easements on the parcels of land shown on plans entitled "TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS, FORGE VILLAGE ROAD OVER BOUTWELL BROOK CULVERT REPLACEMENT" revised through February 3, 2026, as said plans may be amended, said plans on file with the Town Clerk, for public way purposes, including, but not limited to, the construction, alteration, maintenance, improvement, repair and/or replacement of a culvert system, sidewalk(s), and for drainage, utility and slope work, traffic improvements, driveway reconstruction and grading, tree protection and landscaping; and, further, to authorize the Select Board to enter into all agreements and take all related actions necessary or appropriate to carry out said acquisitions and other acts authorized herein;

Or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 18: Authorize the Select Board to Accept Easements for the Pleasant Street & Patten Road Sidewalk Project *Select Board*

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain or otherwise, on such terms and conditions as the Select Board shall determine, permanent and/ or temporary easements on the parcels of land shown on the plans entitled "PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AT PLEASANT STREET & PATTEN ROAD,” revised through February 3, 2026 as said plans may be amended, said plans on file with the Town Clerk, for public way purposes, including, but not limited to, the construction, alteration, maintenance, improvement, repair and/ or replacement of sidewalks, and for drainage, utility and slope work, traffic improvements, driveway reconstruction and grading, tree protection and landscaping; and, further, to authorize the Select Board to enter into all agreements and take all related actions necessary or appropriate to carry out said acquisitions and other acts authorized herein;

Or act in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 19: Authorize the Select Board to Grant Easements to National Grid at the J.V. Fletcher Library located at 50 Main Street *Select Board*

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a portion of the Town-owned property located at 50 Main Street, being the J.V. Fletcher Library, which property is identified as Assessors’ Parcel 59-18, and as described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds in Book 259, Page 535, and as approximately shown on the plan entitled “Sketch to Accompany Easement – National Grid,” dated August 28, 2025, prepared by National Grid, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, from the board or commission having custody thereof for library purposes, to the board or commission having custody thereof for library purposes and to the Select Board for the purpose of conveyance of an easement thereon for an electric distribution system and related appurtenances, and to authorize the Select Board to convey an easement on such terms and conditions and for such consideration, which may be nominal consideration, as the Select Board deems to be in the best interests of the Town; and, further, to authorize the Select Board to enter into any and all agreements and take such actions as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out said conveyance and other acts authorized herein;

Or act in relation thereto.

PETITIONS FOR SPECIAL LEGISLATION AND GENERAL BYLAW AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE 20: Authorize Digital-Only Legal Notices *Select Board*

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to petition the General Court for passage of a special law as shown below; provided, however, that the Legislature may make clerical or editorial changes in form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the Legislature. The Select Board is hereby authorized to approve amendments that shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition, or act in relation thereto.

AN ACT ALLOWING “PRINT-FREE” DIGITAL LEGAL NOTICES FOR THE TOWN OF WESTFORD

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of section 13 of chapter 4 of the General Laws, wherever the Town of Westford or Westford public schools or their subdivisions, committees, boards, commissions or offices are required by statute, ordinance, by-law or judicial order to publish a legal notice in a newspaper or newspaper of general circulation, such requirement may be met through 1 or more of the following means:

- (i) a print newspaper of local or general circulation;
- (ii) a newspaper’s website;
- (iii) websites reporting local news and opinion which satisfy all criteria for digital publication as set forth in said subsection (b) of said section 13 of said chapter 4;
- (iv) a statewide website that may be maintained as a repository for such notices; or
- (v) a town-wide website that may be maintained as a repository for such notices.

SECTION 2. Nothing set forth in this act shall be construed to alter or amend the time or timing of publication of legal notices set forth in the General Laws.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

ARTICLE 21: Adopt General Bylaw Prohibiting Virtual Currency Kiosks

Select Board

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General Bylaws to add a new provision prohibiting the installation and use of virtual currency kiosks, also known as Bitcoin ATMs, Cryptocurrency Machines, and other similar names, as shown below, and to authorize the Town Clerk to assign such numbering and to make non-substantive changes to the format of this bylaw in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format of the Town's General Bylaws,

§ XX-1 Purpose and intent

This bylaw prohibits the installation and use of cryptocurrency machines (also known as Bitcoin ATMs, Bitcoin Teller Machines (BTMs), or Virtual Currency Kiosks) ("Virtual Currency Kiosks"), in the Town of Westford.

Virtual Currency Kiosks allow users to buy or sell virtual or cryptocurrencies using cash or debit/credit cards. They have become a significant instrument in financial fraud and scams nationwide.

Criminals use Virtual Currency Kiosks because of anonymity, the avoidance of third-party financial intermediaries validating the transaction, and the fact that the transactions are irrevocable.

The Westford Police Department has limited resources to investigate, pursue and prosecute these types of criminal activities. In addition, these virtual transactions allow transfers of funds overseas, impeding the ability of any U.S. law enforcement agency to recover such funds. This bylaw is one step in attempting to limit the impact of illicit Virtual Currency Kiosk use on Westford residents. The purpose of this bylaw is to prohibit the use of Virtual Currency Kiosks within the Town as necessary and appropriate to prevent crime, protect personal property, and promote the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Westford.

§ XX-2 Definitions

"Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation, firm, association or group owning, operating, or hosting a Virtual Currency Kiosk.

"Host" means any Person who owns or has lawful control of real property in the Town of Westford who allows any other person to place or operate a Virtual Currency Kiosk.

"Virtual Currency" or "Cryptocurrency" means any type of digital representation of value that is not government issued legal tender that: (1) is used as a medium of exchange, unit of account, or store of value; and (2) is not money, whether or not denominated in money, and thus does not have legal tender status. Virtual Currency includes brand names such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, Dash, Monero, Litecoin, and any other digital representation of value meeting the definition in this bylaw, regardless of the name given by the Virtual Currency Kiosk Operator. Virtual currency does not include transactions where a merchant grants, as part of a rewards program, value that cannot be exchanged with the merchant for money, bank credit, or virtual currency. It also does not include digital representation of value issued by or on behalf of a publisher used solely within an online game.

"Virtual Currency Kiosk" means a physical electronic terminal located in an area accessible to the general public acting as a mechanical agent of the virtual currency kiosk operator to enable the virtual currency kiosk operator to facilitate the exchange of virtual currency for money, bank credit or other virtual currency, including, but not limited to, by: (i) connecting directly to a separate virtual currency exchange that performs the actual virtual currency transmission; or (ii) drawing upon the virtual currency in the possession of the electronic terminal's operator.

“Virtual Currency Kiosk Operator.” A person that engages in virtual currency business activity through a Virtual Currency Kiosk.

§ XX-3 Virtual Currency Kiosks prohibited

No person shall host, allow, operate, permit, locate or place a Virtual Currency Kiosk within any location in the Town of Westford that is open to and accessible by members of the public.

All publicly accessible Virtual Currency Kiosks existing in the Town as of the Effective Date of this bylaw shall be removed within (60) sixty days after the Effective Date. This section does not apply to any virtual currency transfers that are conducted without the use of a Virtual Currency Kiosk and does not intend to interfere with other types and methods of virtual currency transfers.

The prohibition in this bylaw applies to the Virtual Currency Kiosk Operator and any person acting as a Host for a Virtual Currency Kiosk.

§ XX-4 Administration and enforcement.

A. This bylaw may be enforced by, any Police Officer of the Town of Westford, or any agent duly appointed by the Select Board (the “Enforcement Authority”).

B. This bylaw may be enforced through non-criminal disposition pursuant to Massachusetts General Law c. 40, § 21D and Chapter One, § 1.3 of the Town of Westford General bylaws. In the event of such disposition, and subject to the safeguards of § 21D, any person that violates any provision of this bylaw shall be subject to the following penalties:

(1) Upon the first violation, the Enforcement Authority shall provide the violator with written notice of the violation. The written notice shall also state that the violator has (30) thirty days after receiving such notice to cure the violation before the imposition of a fine.

(2) After the 30-day cure period, if the violation has not been cured, the Enforcement Authority shall impose the following fines:

- (a) A fine of \$100 for the first violation following receipt of the written notice referred to in Subsection B (1) above;
- (b) A fine of \$200 for the second violation; and
- (c) A fine of \$300 for any further violation.

(3) Each day that the violator continues to operate the Virtual Currency Kiosk shall constitute a separate violation of this bylaw. Fines are cumulative and each day or portion thereof shall constitute a separate offense.

C. This bylaw may be enforced by indictment or on complaint brought in a court of competent jurisdiction. Each day or portion thereof shall constitute a separate offense. If more than one, each condition violated shall constitute a separate offense.

D. The Town may enforce this bylaw or enjoin violations thereof through any lawful process, and the election of one remedy by the Town shall not preclude enforcement through any other lawful means.

§ XX-5 Severability

The provisions of this bylaw are hereby declared to be severable. If any provision, paragraph, sentence, or clause of this bylaw or the application thereof to any person, establishment, or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or application of this bylaw.

CITIZENS' PETITION

ARTICLE 22: Petition to Rescind the Select Board Decision to Implement a Pay-As-You-Throw Solid Waste Collection System

*Citizens'
Petition*

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the decision of the Select Board to implement a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) solid waste collection system, and to direct that the Town continue to provide curbside household trash collection under the same conditions and user fee structure in effect prior to the implementation of PAYT, or take any other action relative thereto.

And you, Constable, are directed to serve this warrant by posting a true and attested copy thereof at the Town Hall, Library and at each Post Office in said Town of Westford at least fourteen (14) days prior to the time of holding said meeting.

THEREOF FAIL NOT and make return of this warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of holding the meeting aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 10 day of February in the Year of our Lord 2026.

G. Thomas Clay (Chair)

Chris Barrett (Vice-Chair)

John H. Cunningham (Clerk)

Noelle L. Donovan

Sean P. Kelly

A TRUE COPY

ATTEST:

Constable of Westford

DATE: February 11, 2026

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE SERVED THE FOREGOING WARRANT BY POSTING A TRUE AND ATTESTED COPY THEREOF AT THE TOWN HALL, LIBRARY AND AT EACH POST OFFICE IN THE SAID TOWN OF WESTFORD AT LEAST FOURTEEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE TIME OF HOLDING SAID MEETING.