

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF HOPKINTON**



SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Monday, October 26, 2026

7:00 PM

Hopkinton Middle School Auditorium

88 Hayden Rowe

The Middle School is accessible. If accessibility accommodations/modifications are needed, please contact the Town Manager's office at 508-497-9701 or [complete this form](#) by October 19, 2026.

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MIDDLESEX, ss.

To any of the Constables of the Town of Hopkinton in said County,

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby required to notify and warn all inhabitants of the Town of Hopkinton qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet at the Hopkinton Middle School at 88 Hayden Rowe, on October 26, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., then and there to act upon the following Articles:

ARTICLE: 1	Periodic Charter Review: Report and Recommendations
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<i>Sponsor: Charter Review Committee</i>
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To hear the Report of the Charter Review Committee, submitted pursuant to Section 8-2 of the Town's Home Rule Charter, and to see if the Town will vote to adopt the recommendations of the Charter Review Committee as set forth in a proposed Charter, copies of which are available for inspection in the Town Clerk's office and on the Town's website.

Pass any vote or take any act relative thereto.

ARTICLE: 2	Unpaid Bills from Prior Fiscal Years
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<i>Sponsor: Town Manager</i>

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to pay unpaid bills from prior fiscal years, in accordance with the provisions of General Laws Chapter 44, § 64.

Pass any vote or take any act relative thereto.

ARTICLE: 3	FY2026 Supplemental Appropriation and Transfers
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<i>Sponsor: Chief Financial Officer</i>

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to supplement operating budgets and various accounts for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2026 for costs associated with the payment of bonds issued in relation to Article 28, *Wood Street Pump Station Improvements*, of the May 7, 2012 Annual Town Meeting and Article 16, *Hayden Rowe Water Main Replacement*, of the May 7, 2018 Annual Town Meeting.

Pass any vote or take any act relative thereto.

**ARTICLE: 4 FY2027 Supplemental Appropriation and
Transfers – Capital Improvements**

*Sponsor: Director of Public
Works*

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to supplement operating budgets and various accounts for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2027 for costs associated with following projects:

1. Emergency Water Main Replacement at Claflin Place;
2. Replacement of Filter Screens and Flow Meters at the Fruit Street Wastewater Treatment Facility;
3. Replacement of a Backup Generator at the Wood Street Wastewater Pump Station;
and
4. Installation of a Vehicle Undercarriage Pressure Washer at the Department of Public Works Facility.

Pass any vote or take any act relative thereto.

ARTICLE: 5 Amend FY 2027 Operating Budget

Sponsor: Town Manager

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget approved in Article 6 of the Annual Town Meeting held on May 2, 2026, by amending the General Fund to align with actual costs.

Pass any vote or take any act relative thereto.

**ARTICLE: 6 Amend Bylaw to Add Sealer of Weights and
Measures Fees**

*Sponsor: Director of Land
Use, Planning and
Permitting*

To see if the Town will vote amend Chapter 24, "Department of Municipal Inspections", of the General Bylaws of the Town of Hopkinton by inserting the following new Section 24-5, "Sealer of Weights and Measures Fees," to be inserted into the Chapter after Section 24-4, "Recommendations for appointment of staff":

§24-5. Sealer of Weights and Measures Fees

Fees for the Sealer of Weights and Measures within the Town of Hopkinton are hereby established by the Select Board through notification and a public hearing on the matter, to cover the costs incurred for the service.

Pass any vote or take any act relative thereto.

ARTICLE: 7 Accept Gift of Land: Parcel U17-41-0*Sponsor: Town Manager*

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire by purchase or gift, a fee interest in an approximately 0.0083 acre parcel of land located on Ash Street, Hopkinton Assessors Map U17 Block 41 Lot 0.

Pass any vote or take any other act related thereto.

**ARTICLE: 8 Acceptance of Certain Private Ways as
Public Ways***Sponsor: Citizen Petition*

To see if the Town will vote to direct and authorize the Select Board, Department of Public Works, Planning Board, Town Manager, and all other appropriate Town boards, officers, and employees to identify all non-driveway, non-publicly accepted ways within the Town of Hopkinton that provide access to residential properties, are open to public use, and are not maintained by a homeowners association, condominium association, or similar private governing entity; and to take all actions necessary and appropriate, including preparation of layouts, surveys, title examinations, easements, engineering plans, instruments of acceptance, and other documents, to cause such eligible ways to be laid out and accepted as public ways of the Town to the fullest extent permitted by law; and further to require the requisite boards and departments to undertake and expedite in under 1 calendar year any additional votes, layouts, appropriations, instruments, or approvals required for completion of such acceptances to Town Meeting; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE: 9 Acceptance of M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section
6C – Snow and Ice Removal on Private
Ways***Sponsor: Citizen Petition*

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 6C, in the manner provided by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 6D, thereby authorizing the Town to appropriate and expend public funds for the removal of snow and ice from non-public ways within the Town that are open to public use and without a governing HOA; and further to authorize and require the requisite Boards, Town Manager, Department of Public Works, and other appropriate Town officials to establish policies and procedures necessary to implement such authority; or take any other action relative thereto with expediency.

ARTICLE: 10 Amendment of Private Way Repair Bylaw – Sponsor: Citizen Petition
Increase of Minor Repair Limit

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 174, Article VI, Section 174-22, "Minor Repairs," of the General Bylaws of the Town of Hopkinton by deleting the words and figure: "\$1,000" and inserting in place thereof: "\$100,000" so that, upon the request of the Director of Public Works, Planning Board, or owners of properties abutting a private way, and upon the recommendation and certification required by said section, the Select Board may authorize the Town to make minor repairs to a private way in a sum not to exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) in total on any such way in any one fiscal year; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE: 11 Comprehensive Review of Town Meeting Sponsor: Citizen Petition
Bylaws and Procedures

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Town Meeting Bylaw and Procedures Review Committee for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive review of all Town bylaws, rules, practices, procedures, deadlines, notice requirements, and other provisions relating to the conduct and administration of Annual and Special Town Meetings; said Committee shall review and shall make recommendations for amendments to the Charter, General Bylaws, Town Meeting rules, or administrative procedures and report such recommendations to the Select Board and Town Meeting within twelve months of its establishment; and for a quinquennial review/recommendations by committee thereafter, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE: 12 Establishment of Biannual Fall and February Sponsor: Citizen Petition
Town Meeting Dates

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws, and to initiate such Charter amendments as may be necessary, to establish a regular and predictable bi-annual Town Meeting calendar consisting of a Town Meeting held during the fall of each calendar year and a Town Meeting held during the month of February of each calendar year; and further to establish a filing and review schedule under which proposed capital expenditures, borrowing authorizations, major infrastructure projects, and other articles requiring substantial appropriations shall be submitted sufficiently in advance of the Fall Town Meeting to permit review by the Appropriation Committee, Capital Improvements Committee, Select Board, other appropriate Town boards or committees, and Citizen Petition for eventual final vote of a budget in February, and further to direct the Select Board, Town Manager, Town Clerk, and Town Counsel to prepare and present such amendments to the General Bylaws and the Hopkinton Home Rule Charter as are necessary to implement a permanent fall-and-February Town Meeting calendar; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE: 13 Weekday Requirement for Town Meetings*Sponsor: Citizen Petition*

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 47 of the General Bylaws, and any other applicable provision of the General Bylaws, to require that the business sessions of Annual and Special Town Meetings be scheduled on weekdays, Monday through Friday, and not on Saturdays or Sundays, except when continuation to a weekend date is made necessary by emergency circumstances or other requirements of law; and further to establish an evening starting time reasonably calculated to permit participation by working residents and families; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE: 14 Police Chief Eligibility – Brady/Giglio
Disclosure and Disqualification***Sponsor: Citizen Petition*

To see if the Town will vote to amend its General Bylaws, personnel requirements, appointment standards, and other applicable policies to provide that no individual shall be appointed or confirmed as Chief of Police of the Town of Hopkinton if that individual has been formally or previously been identified by a prosecuting authority as a law-enforcement officer whose credibility, truthfulness, bias, misconduct, or other history requires disclosure to criminal defendants pursuant to Brady v. Maryland, Giglio v. United States, or related constitutional or statutory disclosure requirements; and further to require, prior to appointment or confirmation of any candidate for Chief of Police, a documented review of available Brady/Giglio disclosure information, disciplinary history, certification history, and Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission records to the extent permitted by law; provided that this article shall be implemented consistently with applicable state and federal law, collective bargaining obligations, civil service requirements, due-process rights, and other controlling legal authority; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE: 15 Surveillance Technology – Town Meeting
Authorization and Public Disclosure***Sponsor: Citizen Petition*

To see if the Town will vote to adopt a General Bylaw regulating the acquisition, funding, installation, deployment, or material expansion of surveillance technology by the Town of Hopkinton or any Town department, agency, board, commission, office, or other municipal entity; and to provide that no Town funds, grants, gifts, purchase orders, contracts, departmental funds, revolving funds, forfeiture proceeds, or other resources under municipal control shall be used to purchase, lease, acquire, install, or materially expand surveillance technology without prior public disclosure and authorization by Town Meeting, except where otherwise required by law or where temporary emergency deployment is necessary to address an imminent threat to life or public safety; For purposes of this article, “surveillance technology” shall include, but not be limited to: video surveillance systems; automated license plate readers; facial recognition systems; biometric identification systems; persistent location-tracking systems; remotely operated cameras; networked camera systems; aerial surveillance systems; artificial-

intelligence-enabled monitoring systems; and other technologies primarily designed or deployed to systematically monitor, identify, locate, track, or record persons or vehicles; and further to require publication of the purpose, cost, location or general area of deployment where legally permissible, data-retention practices, information-sharing practices, and responsible municipal department before such technology is placed into routine use; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE: 16 Term Limits for Elected Town Officials

Sponsor: Citizen Petition

To see if the Town will vote to initiate and approve term limits for elected Town officeholders; and providing that no person shall be eligible for election to the same elected Town office after serving two consecutive full terms in that office until a period of five years has elapsed following the conclusion of the person's second consecutive term; provided that service completing an unexpired term resulting from a vacancy shall not constitute a full term unless otherwise required by law; and further providing that after completion of the five-year period, such person shall again become eligible to seek election to that office; and to direct the Select Board, Town Clerk, Town Manager, and Town Counsel to undertake all steps required by Massachusetts law to place such Charter amendment before the voters or otherwise obtain the approvals necessary for its adoption; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE: 17 Public Records, Policies, Procedures, and
Online Government Transparency**

Sponsor: Citizen Petition

To see if the Town will vote to adopt a General Bylaw requiring the Town to maintain a centralized, searchable, publicly accessible online repository containing current municipal policies, procedures, regulations, rules, administrative directives, public forms, and other generally applicable governance documents; and further requiring every Town department, board, committee, commission, and office, to the extent permitted by law, to provide current copies of its formally adopted policies and procedures for inclusion in such repository; and further requiring the repository to include, where applicable: the date each policy or procedure was adopted; the date of its most recent amendment; the Town board, department, officer, or other authority responsible for its adoption; prior superseded versions when reasonably available; public records request procedures including exact eligibility of fee waivers, redaction policy; such other information as is reasonably necessary to permit residents to identify and understand the rules and procedures governing municipal operations; provided that nothing herein shall require publication of information exempt from disclosure under Massachusetts law; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE: 18 Dedicated Municipal Transparency and
Access Officer**

Sponsor: Citizen Petition

To see if the Town will vote to establish, fund, or otherwise provide for a dedicated municipal

Transparency and Access Officer separate from the Office of the Town Clerk and to be appointed by the Select Board, whose primary responsibilities shall include coordinating responses to requests made under the Massachusetts Public Records Law, maintaining public-records request logs, assisting municipal departments with records compliance, maintaining the Town's public-records guidance and online records resources, coordinating responses with records custodians, and promoting timely and consistent compliance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 66 and Chapter 4, Section 7; and further to direct the Town Manager and Select Board, acting within their respective authority and consistent with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 66, Section 6A, to designate an appropriate Town employee or establish an appropriate municipal position to perform such duties; and further to appropriate or transfer such sum as may be necessary for implementation; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE: 19 Townwide Sidewalk Master Plan

Sponsor: Citizen Petition

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, transfer, borrow, or otherwise provide a sum of money for the preparation of a comprehensive Townwide Sidewalk Master Plan; and to authorize the Town Manager, Department of Public Works, Planning Department, Planning Board, and other appropriate Town departments and boards to conduct or commission a comprehensive study of existing and proposed sidewalks, pedestrian routes, crossings, accessibility deficiencies, school walking routes, connections to Town facilities, commercial areas, parks, trails, neighborhoods, and public transportation facilities; and that said study shall identify and prioritize a 10 year action plan to address: missing sidewalk connections; unsafe pedestrian corridors; routes serving schools and municipal facilities; Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility improvements; necessary crosswalk and intersection improvements; opportunities to connect existing sidewalk networks; estimated project costs; potential state and federal funding sources; and a phased implementation schedule for construction and improvement of a connected Townwide pedestrian network; and further to require that the resulting Sidewalk Master Plan be presented to Town Meeting and made available to the public; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE: 20 Hoffman Road Culvert and Drainage Project
– Fiscal Year 2027 Funding**

Sponsor: Citizen Petition

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow pursuant to applicable law, or otherwise provide a sum of money sufficient to design, permit, construct, repair, replace, rehabilitate, or otherwise complete the necessary culvert and associated drainage improvements serving Hoffman Road; including costs for engineering, surveying, design, environmental review, permitting, easements, construction, drainage improvements, roadway restoration, project administration, contingencies, and all other incidental and related costs; and to authorize and require the Select Board, Town Manager, Department of Public Works, and other appropriate Town officials to apply for and accept any state, federal, regional, or private grants or reimbursements available for the project; with the intent that funding be made available for the project during Fiscal Year 2027 and that the project

proceed as promptly as engineering, permitting, procurement, and applicable law permit; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE: 21 Periodic Review of Zoning Bylaw and
Zoning Map**

Sponsor: Citizen Petition

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw or otherwise require the Planning Board to undertake a quinquennial comprehensive review of the Town of Hopkinton Zoning Bylaws, Official Zoning Map; and that such review shall include, at a minimum: existing zoning districts and district boundaries; residential, commercial, industrial, mixed-use, and institutional zoning; housing production and housing needs assessment; identify economic development opportunities; infrastructure capacity; transportation and pedestrian connectivity; environmental and natural-resource protection; open-space preservation; municipal and school infrastructure; consistency with the Town's Master Plan and other long-range planning documents; changes in applicable state and federal law; and proposed amendments to the Zoning Bylaw and Official Zoning Map warranted by the review; and further to require that the Planning Board conduct a public process as part of such review and issue a written report containing its findings, proposed zoning amendments, and proposed updated zoning maps for consideration by Town Meeting; provided that nothing herein shall restrict the Planning Board or Town Meeting from proposing or adopting zoning amendments at any time between such comprehensive reviews; and as part of each quinquennial review, the Planning Board shall prepare, maintain, and recommend for adoption a comprehensive Zoning Use Table identifying all principal and accessory land uses and specifying, for each zoning district, whether each use is permitted by right, permitted by special permit, or prohibited. The Use Table shall be reviewed and updated as necessary as part of each quinquennial zoning review and whenever an amendment to the Zoning Bylaw materially changes permitted land uses, or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE: 22 Town Employee Housing Preference in
Chapter 40Y Districts**

Sponsor: Citizen Petition

To see if the Town will vote to establish, to the fullest extent permitted by law, a housing preference program for residential units constructed within any Starter Home Zoning District adopted pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40Y, whereby eligible employees of the Town of Hopkinton and Hopkinton Public Schools shall receive a right of first offer or first refusal upon the initial sale and subsequent resale of such homes; and further to require that such preference, where legally permissible, be established through deed restrictions, affordability restrictions, development agreements, or other enforceable instruments designed to preserve the preference for future resales; and to authorize the Select Board, Planning Board, Town Manager, and Town Counsel to develop and implement regulations necessary to effectuate this policy consistent with Chapter 40Y and applicable state and federal law; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE: 23 Recreation Building Demolition, Town Hall
Parking, and Community Center Study**

Sponsor: Citizen Petition

To see if the Town will vote to direct the appropriate Town officials to undertake the demolition and removal of the existing Parks and Recreation building adjacent to Town Hall and to convert the resulting area, to the maximum extent practicable, to additional parking serving residents, visitors, and Town employees. And further, to authorize and fund a feasibility study for the establishment of a new Town community center designed to serve residents of all ages and abilities, which study shall evaluate, at a minimum: expanded indoor recreation facilities; dedicated senior programming and activity space; dedicated facilities and programming space for residents with disabilities and special needs; indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities; offices and support space for present and future Parks and Recreation staff; and appropriate parking, accessibility, and supporting infrastructure. The study shall evaluate potential locations, conceptual designs, estimated capital and operating costs, potential funding sources, and a recommended implementation plan for consideration by a future Town Meeting; or take any other action relative thereto.

**ARTICLE: 24 Commercial and Industrial Vacancy
Registration and Safety Program**

Sponsor: Citizen Petition

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Commercial and Industrial Vacancy Registration and Safety Program applicable to developed or developable property located within commercial or industrial zoning districts that remains wholly or substantially vacant or unoccupied. Owners of covered property shall register such vacancy with the Town and provide current ownership, list of management, emergency contact, building-access, occupancy, and other information reasonably required for public-safety purposes. The Town shall maintain current vacancy and occupancy information and make such information available to the Fire Department and other appropriate emergency-response personnel. A quarterly vacancy registration and inspection fee shall be imposed upon covered properties remaining vacant beyond a reasonable initial grace period, with such fee increasing progressively for each successive period of continued vacancy, until the property is lawfully occupied, placed into active development, or otherwise qualifies for an exemption established by regulation. The Select Board shall establish reasonable fee schedules, definitions, exemptions, inspection requirements, and administrative procedures necessary to implement this Article, with fees reasonably related to the Town's costs of administration, inspection, monitoring, code enforcement, emergency planning, and public-safety services associated with vacant commercial and industrial property; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE: 25 Completion of Town Meeting Warrant

Sponsor: Citizen Petition

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws to provide that no motion, the effect of which would be to dissolve or adjourn a Town Meeting sine die, shall be in order until every

article contained in the warrant has been duly considered and acted upon; provided that nothing herein shall prohibit postponement of consideration of an article to an adjourned session of the same Town Meeting; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE: 26 Random Order of Town Meeting Warrant Articles	<i>Sponsor: Citizen Petition</i>
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To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws to require that, following the close of the warrant for each Annual or Special Town Meeting, the order of substantive warrant articles shall be determined by a publicly conducted random drawing administered by the Moderator at Town Meeting; and articles required by law to appear in a particular position, routine organizational articles, the annual operating budget, or other categories expressly designated by bylaw may be placed in a fixed order prior to the random drawing; or take any other action relative thereto.

HEREOF FAIL NOT, and make the due return of this warrant, with your doings thereon to the Clerk of said Town of Hopkinton, at the time and place aforesaid.

Given under our hands this _____th day of _____, 2026.

SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF HOPKINTON

Shahidul Mannan, Chair

Matthew Kizner, Vice Chair

Amy Ritterbusch

Brian J. Herr

Joseph Clark

A TRUE COPY
ATTEST:

Connor Degan, Town Clerk

DATE: _____

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE SERVED THE FOREGOING WARRANT BY POSTING A TRUE AND ATTESTED COPY THEREOF IN (1) TOWN HALL, (2) ALL POST OFFICES, (3) THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, (4) THE SENIOR CENTER, AND (5) AT LEAST ONE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING, AT LEAST FOURTEEN (14) DAYS PRIOR TO THE TIME OF HOLDING SAID MEETING.

Constable of Hopkinton