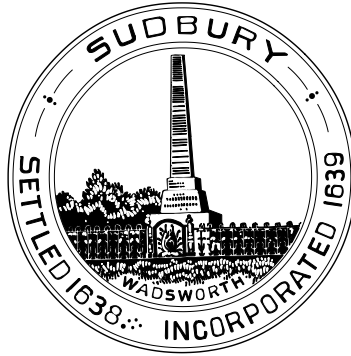


Town of Sudbury Massachusetts



2023 OFFICIAL WARRANT ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

Including Regional District School Committee

Monday, March 27, 2023

Polls Open 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Precincts 1, 2, 3 & 5 - Fairbank Community Center, 40 Fairbank Road

Precincts 4 & 6 - Sudbury Town Hall, 322 Concord Road

The Warrant for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting, to be held
Monday, May 1, 2023 will be issued and mailed separately.

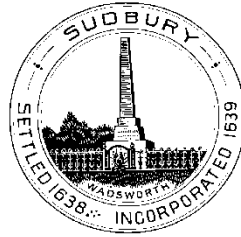
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Sudbury, MA 01776

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ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
Monday, March 27, 2023

****NEW PRECINCTS IN SUDBURY–CHECK YOUR CENSUS****



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Middlesex, ss.

To the Constable of the Town of Sudbury:

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Sudbury, qualified to vote in Town Elections, that voters residing in Precincts 1, 2, 3 and 5 should meet at the Fairbank Community Center and voters residing in Precincts 4 and 6 should meet at the Town Hall in said Town on Monday, March 27, 2023, between the hours of seven o'clock in the forenoon and eight o'clock in the evening then and there to choose by official ballot in accordance with law, one member of the Select Board, one member of the Board of Assessors, two Goodnow Library Trustees, one member of the Board of Health, one member of the Park and Recreation Commission, one member of the Planning Board, and two members of the Sudbury School Committee all for three years. One member of the Sudbury School Committee for one year and one member of the Sudbury Housing Authority for five years. Included as part of the Annual Town Election will be an election of two members for three years each to the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional District School Committee and to cast their votes on the following ballot questions:

BALLOT QUESTION NO. 1

Shall the Town of Sudbury be allowed to assess an additional \$745,460 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the operating budget for the Sudbury Public Schools, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023?

YES _____ NO _____

SUMMARY: Article 3 of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting proposes a \$745,460 Proposition 2 ½ override for the Sudbury Public Schools (PreK-8) in FY2024. It is estimated by the Town that the impact of the override on the tax rate will be \$0.11 per \$1,000 assessed value. It is estimated further that the tax impact on the 2023 average home valuation of \$956,957 is \$114.

A “yes” vote on this question, and appropriation at the May 1, 2023 Annual Town Meeting of the full amount requested by the Sudbury Public Schools, will increase the amount of money the Town may raise by taxation by \$745,460 and result in a permanent increase in the levy limit.

A “no” vote on this question means that the levy limit will not be increased at this time and the Town will not be able to raise the additional funds requested by the School for the FY2024 budget at this time.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR:

The Sudbury Public Schools’ (“SPS”) override budget provides an additional \$745,460 of funding and resources to address post-pandemic academic recovery and the critical mental health needs of the students, while maintaining staffing levels and current transportation offerings.

To meet these increased academic and mental health needs, SPS reallocated funding within the budget, increased reliance on reimbursable funds, and exhausted one-time funding sources. In addition, the District absorbed a 25% increase (\$275,000) in transportation costs since FY22 which continues to rise each year at a rate of 5%. Also, SPS is facing a 14% increase in Out-Of-District tuition rates which are set by the State (\$200,000) and approximately \$300,000 in increased utility expenses.

Without the override, SPS will cut more than 7 teachers and increase class-sizes by 3 students in each class. This will impact 28 classrooms, resulting in class-sizes of 23 students in Grades K-1, 24 students in Grade 2, and 27 students in Grades 3-8. Additionally, SPS will need to reduce transportation costs by eliminating service for students in Grades 7-8 and only providing buses to students in K-6, who live 2 or more miles from school. This meets the minimum State requirement for transportation. The override funding will allow SPS to retain teachers and maintain current class-size guidelines and transportation options for all families, while meeting the critical post-pandemic needs of all students.

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION:

Voting against the Sudbury Public Schools' override budget will constrain the rising costs of municipal government and the tax rate in the Town of Sudbury because it will not result in the assessment of an additional \$745,460 in real estate and personal property taxes to fund the Sudbury Public Schools' budget. Because this ballot question constitutes an override, it would result in a permanent increase in the levy limit for the Town, which, as part of the levy limit base, already increases at the rate of two and one half percent each year. Otherwise put, this will have a permanent impact on the Town's authority to tax residents as it will become part of the base for calculating future years' levy limits. Therefore, voting against this ballot question will not cause the taxpayers to incur additional financial impacts or economic hardships.

BALLOT QUESTION NO. 2

Shall the Town of Sudbury be allowed to assess an additional \$1,020,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of purchasing and equipping one Fire Engine for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023?

YES _____ NO _____

SUMMARY: The 2023 Annual Town Meeting will act on an article proposing the purchase and equipping of a Fire Engine/Pumper pertinent to the operations of the Fire Department. This question proposes a one-year increase for FY2024 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024) in the amount to be raised by taxation under the provisions of Proposition 2 ½, with such funds to be used specifically for the purchase. The estimated impact of increasing the FY24 taxes an additional \$1,020,000 is \$0.16 per \$1,000 assessed value. The tax impact on the 2023 average home value of \$956,957 is estimated at \$155.

A “yes” vote on this question, and an appropriation by the May 1, 2023 Town Meeting, would authorize an increase in the amounts that can be raised by taxation for one year only, FY2024, to pay for the purchase and equipping of a Fire Engine/Pumper.

A “no” vote on this question will mean the purchase of a Fire Engine/Pumper cannot go forward at this time.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR: The requested Fire Engine/Pumper is to replace the Fire Department's current Engine 1, a 2005 E-One Engine/Pumper with 126,128 miles. Engine 1 was a front line piece of apparatus, responding from Station #2, from 2006 to 2017 (11 Years) and has served at Station #1 for the past six years.

Currently, design and build times for a new apparatus is between 24 and 36 months. Engine 1 will be approaching 20 years old at that time. The typical service life of the apparatus is 10 years of front-line

service and 10 years of secondary service. The Fire Department depends on a reliable and well-equipped fire apparatus to provide emergency medical services and fire suppression throughout the Town, and to assist other towns when called upon. These funds will allow the Department to replace the 2005 Fire Engine/Pumper with an updated piece of equipment with additional safety features that benefit both the fire personnel and the citizens of Sudbury.

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION: Approval of the ballot question will allow the Town to impose additional taxes on residents to purchase an expensive piece of equipment for the Fire department. Conservative fiscal policy dictates that the Town raise taxes within the statutory limit imposed by Proposition 2 ½, and approval of the ballot question will allow the Town to exceed that limit. If the equipment is needed, the Town should pay for it by reducing current fiscal year expenses, or transferring funds from available funding sources such as previous appropriations, reserve, or stabilization funds, and not by increasing the real estate and personal property taxes of the residents of the Town.

And you are required to serve this Warrant by posting an attested copy thereof at the Town Hall at least seven days before the time appointed for such election.

Hereof fail not and make due return of the Warrant by your doing thereon to the Town Clerk, at or before the time of election aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 28th day of February, 2023.

SUDBURY SELECT BOARD

Charles G. Russo

Janie W. Dretler

Daniel E. Carty

Jennifer S. Roberts

Lisa V. Kouchakdjian

YOUR PRECINCT and or POLLING PLACE IN SUDBURY MAY HAVE CHANGED FOLLOWING THE 2020 FEDERAL CENSUS. Voters are encouraged to see their Annual Census or visit www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema to verify current precinct information.

For SPECIMEN BALLOT, VOTE-BY-MAIL and other election information, please visit <https://sudbury.ma.us/TownElection>.