

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of West Brookfield
******Annual Town Meeting******
June 3, 2025

Worcester, ss.

To Either of the Constables of the Town of West Brookfield in the County of Worcester, Greetings:

In the **NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at the **WEST BROOKFIELD SENIOR CENTER** on 73 Central Street in said **WEST BROOKFIELD** ON **TUESDAY**, the **SIXTH** day of **MAY, 2025 at 8:00 AM until 8:00 PM**, then and there to elect by ballot the following Town Officers in Article #1, and to warn the inhabitants of said town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at the **WEST BROOKFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 89 NORTH MAIN STREET** in said **WEST BROOKFIELD** on **TUESDAY** the **THIRD** day of **JUNE 2025 at 7:00 PM**, then and there to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: LOCAL ELECTION

To bring in their votes for one (1) Selectman for 3 years, one (1) Assessor for 3 years, one (1) Town Clerk for 3 years, one (1) Moderator for 3 years, one (1) Board of Health for 3 years, one (1) Water Commissioner for 3 years, one (1) Water Commissioner for 3 years, two (2) Library Trustees for 3 years, one (1) Common Committee Member for 3 years, two (2) Planning Board Members as follows: one (1) for 5 years and one (1) for 1 year, one (1) Housing Authority Member for 2 years, four (4) Quaboag Regional School District School Committee Members as follows: two (2) members from West Brookfield for 3 years and two (2) members from Warren for 3 years.

(Sponsored by Town Clerk)

ARTICLE 2: ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS

To hear and act upon the Annual Reports of the Town Officers and Committees; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by Town Clerk)

ARTICLE 3: FY2026 ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS COMPENSATION

To see what action the Town will take with regard to fixing the compensation of the elected Town Officers for the twelve-month period beginning July 1, 2025, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 108; or take any other action relative thereto:

	FY 2025	FY 2026 BOARD OF SELECTMEN	FY 2026 ADVISORY COMMITTEE
	Approved	Recommended	
Moderator	\$450.00	\$450.00	
Selectmen, (each) 2 Members	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
Selectmen, Chairman	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	

Assessors, (each) 2 Members	\$2,913.12	\$2,913.12	
Assessors, Clerk	\$4,161.60	\$4,161.60	
Board of Health, (each) 2 members	\$915.11	\$915.11	
Board of Health, Chairman	\$1,144.40	\$1,144.40	
Town Clerk	\$33,908.93	\$33,908.93	
Water Commissioners (each)	\$400.55	\$400.55	

(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 4: FISCAL YEAR 2026 OPERATING BUDGETS

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, including the Water Enterprise Fund in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53F½, and the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53F3/4, such sums of money as listed in the Advisory Committee Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request and as amended as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2026 and to vote that any State reimbursements which result in available funds to the Quaboag Regional School District, in excess of the approved budget, shall be used to reduce the Town's assessment; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Advisory Committee)

ARTICLE 5: ESTABLISH AND AUTHORIZE PFAS SETTLEMENT STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to create a PFAS Settlement Stabilization Fund pursuant to G.L. c. 40, §5B, effective beginning on July 1, 2025, and to allow all monies received by the Town from recent and future class action lawsuit settlements from manufacturers of PFAS (Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) for the contamination of drinking water to be placed into such fund and to be used only for water system capital improvements; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen and Water Commissioners)

ARTICLE 6: ESTABLISH AND AUTHORIZE REVOLVING FUND – RECREATION PROGRAMS

To see if the Town vote to establish a new revolving fund, pursuant to G.L. c.44, §53E ½, to be known as Recreation Programs; by inserting the underlined text in a new row at the end of the Table of authorized revolving funds, as follows, and, further, to establish a fiscal year expenditure limit of \$15,000 for such fund, to be applicable from fiscal year to fiscal year unless amended by Town Meeting prior to July 1 in any fiscal year:

<u>A</u> Revolving Fund	<u>B</u> Department, Board, Committee, Agency or Officer Authorized to spend from the Fund	<u>C</u> Fees, Charges or other Receipts Credited to Fund	<u>D</u> Program or Activity Expenses Payable from Fund	<u>E</u> Fiscal Years
<u>Recreation Programs</u>	<u>Recreation Commission</u>	<u>Any fees collected for participation in recreational programs.</u>	<u>This fund shall be used for payment of materials necessary to facilitate the programs.</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2026 and subsequent years</u>

or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Recreation Committee)

ARTICLE 7: SPENDING LIMITED ON REVOLVING FUNDS

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, 53E ½ to establish annual expenditure limits for the following revolving funds as established in the Town's General Bylaws relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Burial Grounds Commission)

(Sponsored by the Stormwater Authority)

(Sponsored by the Tree Warden)

Line	Revolving Fund	FY 2026 Spending Limit
1	Cemetery	\$16,000
2	Stormwater	\$25,000
3	Tree Warden	\$10,000

ARTICLE 8: REPAIRS TO PRIVATE WAYS ACCOUNT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be placed in the "Repairs To Private Ways Account" to pay for repairs to private ways within West Brookfield pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, 6N and Chapter XII, Section 8 of the General Bylaws, and further, that all repairs made to private ways will be completed in strict adherence to all applicable state laws and West Brookfield bylaws; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen and Highway Department)

ARTICLE 9: TOWNWIDE BUILDING MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be placed in the "Townwide Building Maintenance Account" or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 10: VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money from available funds for the purpose of funding various capital improvement projects or for purchasing capital improvement items as recommended by the Capital Improvement Committee or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Capital Improvement Committee)

ARTICLE 11: IN-KIND FUNDS "MASTER PLAN UPDATE" GRANT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds in the treasury, a sum of money as an in-kind match for the planning services to update the Town's Master Plan contingent upon receiving a \$139,000.00 Rural and Small-Town Development Fund Grant, or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 12: IN-KIND FUNDS "GREEN COMMUNITIES" GRANT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, a sum of money as an in-kind match to the \$189,000.00 grant funding awarded to the Town through the Green Communities Program by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources for energy conservation projects at the Elementary School, Fire Station and Highway Department, or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 13: LELAND ROAD PUMP STATION UPGRADE PROJECT

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$6,240,000 for the purpose of financing construction and construction administration of the Leland Road Pump Station Upgrade Project, including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws, as most recently amended by St. 1998, c.78; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectmen is authorized to borrow \$6,240,000 and issue bonds or notes therefor under Chapter 44 of the General Laws and/or Chapter 29C of the General Laws, as most recently amended by St. 1998, c.78; that such bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the Town unless the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectmen determines that they should be issued as limited obligations and may be secured by local system revenues as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C, as most recently amended by St. 1998, c.78; that the Treasurer with the approval of the Selectmen is authorized to borrow all or any portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust established pursuant to Chapter 29C, as most recently amended by St. 1998, c.78; and in connection therewith to enter into a loan agreement and/or security agreement with the Trust and otherwise to contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to such loan and for any available federal financial assistance, including the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Program, or any state aid available for the project or for the financing thereof; that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, to expend all funds available for the project and to take any other action necessary to carry out the project.

(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 14: LOCAL EXCISE ADOPTION: ROOM OCCUPANCY

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 64G, Section 3A, authorizing the imposition of a local excise on the rental of rooms in hotels, motels, lodging houses and bed and breakfast establishments within the Town, and, further, to set that local excise at 6%; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen)

ARTICLE 15: ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT – SECTION 3.23 COMMERCIAL USE

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of West Brookfield Zoning Bylaws by amending Section 3.23 Commercial Use by adding Section 17 Indoor Storage as follows:

		RR	RN	G
17 Indoor Storage	Use of existing structures for indoor storage of boats, automobiles and/or equipment as determined by the Zoning Board of Appeals, including the rental of structures for said use, but excluding the storage of liquid hazardous materials, as defined in G.L. c.21E.	SP	SP	SP

or take any other action relative thereto.

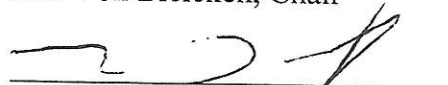
(Sponsored by the Planning Board)

HEREOF FAIL NOT, and make do return of the Warrant, with your doing thereon, to the Town Clerk, the time and place of meetings, as aforesaid.

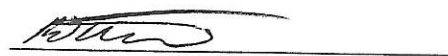
Given under our hands, this 29th day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-four.

West Brookfield Board of Selectmen:


Eric Von Bleicken, Chair

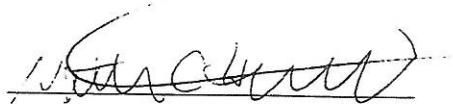

Roland Sickenberger, Vice Chair

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:


Brad Merkel, Clerk

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD by posting an attested copy of the same on the Bulletin Board in the front entrance of the WEST BROOKFIELD TOWN HALL fourteen (14) days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Constable of West Brookfield:



Worcester, ss.

Date: April 30, 2025,

Time: 9:53 AM _____ PM

