



**Town of Natick**  
**Town Clerk's Office**  
13 East Central Street  
Natick, MA 01760  
508-647-6430

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Selectboard  
**CC:** Board of Registrars, B. Chenard, M. Malone, A. Nolin, K. North, J. Townsend, J. White

**FROM:** Diane Packer

**DATE:** March 24, 2020

**RE:** Annual Town Election

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I am sending this prior to the Board's meeting this evening regarding scheduling of the Annual Town Election. The Town Clerk's received guidance this morning from the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Election division which I also forwarded to Ms. North.

In summary, the Board may vote to postpone the election and that vote must be taken prior to the date of the original election which is next Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. The Board does not have to postpone to a date certain but there are guidelines by which they must announce a date. There is a chart at the bottom of this memo which details the timelines for an announcement from the Board and includes voter registration deadlines. The deadline for the Board announcement is the last date, the decision may be made and decided prior to that date. In this instance it is critical to include the Director of Public Health in this decision making process. The Board must make a decision regarding a specific date at a duly posted meeting.

2020 Annual Town Election		
<b>Proposed Date</b>	<b>BOS Announcement</b>	<b>Last day to Register to Vote</b>
May 19, 2020	April 29, 2020	May 8, 2020
May 26, 2020	May 6, 2020	May 15, 2020
June 2, 2020	May 13, 2020	May 22, 2020
June 9, 2020	May 20, 2020	May 29, 2020
June 16, 2020	May 27, 2020	June 5, 2020

In addition, the guidelines from the Elections office expanded the reasons for absentee voting to include any person taking precaution related to COVID-19 in response to a declared state of emergency or from guidance from a medical professional, local or state health official, or any civil authority (only until June 30, 2020). In addition, the legislation has provided for the opportunity to vote early by mail. I will post all the information on my website in the next few days.

Several key issues include:

- As the election was scheduled within the next week, ballots had already been ordered (and received) and we will still be able to use them.
- Absentee ballots for applications that had already been received were mailed several weeks ago.
- I have ordered additional absentee ballots as the early vote by mail option allows the use of absentee ballots rather than separate early voting ballots. We may also use official ballots if necessary but they are not folded and do not easily fit into the envelopes.
- I have been updating the Board of Registrars and Town Clerk's office staff as to the current situation.
- The change in the election date will be communicated in a variety of methods- Reverse 911 call, social media, website, press release and any signage that we can create and put out.
- There still remains a concern about the ability to hire poll workers based on the health concerns of many of our staff.

As this is an evolving issue, I will keep you posted as I learn any additional information.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dave".