

## **BOS Motion: Postponing March 31, 2020 Annual Town Election**

Whereas, the Commonwealth is in a State of Emergency, and the Governor's Order of March 12, 2020 and subsequent orders, urge residents to practice "social distancing" in order to protect themselves and their families from transmission of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19; and,

Whereas, in addition to school closures, Natick has closed its public libraries, its recreation facilities, its community and senior center, and town hall is closed to the public; and,

Whereas, elections require participation by town officials and staff, volunteer poll workers (many of whom fall into the category deemed most vulnerable to COVID-19), the use of police officers at polling places, and the use of schools and other public buildings, and there is a significant concern as to the safety of the voters and all those involved; and,

Whereas, on March 23, 2020 the Governor signed legislation known as S. 2608, An Act Granting Authority to Postpone 2020 Municipal Elections in the Commonwealth and Increase Voting Options in Response to the Declaration of Emergency to Respond to Covid-19, which gives the Board of Selectmen the authority to postpone the date of the Natick Annual Town elections to a date not later than June 30, 2020, and to select that date after consultation with the Town Clerk and Town Administration;

Therefore, it is moved that the Natick Board of Selectmen postpone the March 31, 2020 Annual Town Election, to a date no later than June 30, 2020, to be chosen after consultation with the Town Clerk, the Town Administrator, the Health Agent, and Public Safety.