



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

MEMORANDUM

Sent via email

TO: Select Board
CC: J. Hicks, J. Gadson, M. Malone, A. Nolin, K. North, K. Partanen, J. White, Board of Registrars
FROM: D. Packer
DATE: August 3, 2020
RE: Moving Polling Locations for Precincts 1, 2 and 3

This memo requests that you vote to move the polling locations for Precincts 1, 2 and 3 at least through the end of this year to the gym at Natick High School located at 15 West St. Currently, Precincts 1 and 3 vote at Brown School and Precinct 2 at the Cole Recreation Building. This will include the State Primary scheduled for September 1st and the Presidential Election scheduled for November 3rd.

The Natick High School gym is completely accessible as it is in a new building and has its own entrance making it a better location during COVID-19. Using the Brown School in the most recent local election was a challenge as it is in the middle of the Kennedy Middle School construction-site. The Natick High School gym is a very large space which can easily accommodate all three (3) precincts with social distancing requirements. Prior to requesting this change, I consulted with Mr. White, Director of Public Health and Dr. Nolin, School Superintendent. Both of them are supportive of this change. There will be no students in the building on either September 1st or November 3rd. Mr. White had already vetted this location for its potential to be used as an in-person venue for Town Meeting and believes that this will allow for improved access and better social distancing than the current existing locations. I will be requesting that the Police and/or Facilities designate and mark additional handicap parking spaces.

Section 11 of Chapter 115 of the Acts of 2020 allows the Town to make this change and notify voters via reverse 911 calls, website posting, and social media rather than requiring a postcard mailing. I have attached the notice of the Town Clerk's Report on Polling Location Change and the survey requested by the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The attached notice has been posted on the website with adequate notice to comply with the law.



TOWN OF NATICK
Office of the Town Clerk
www.natickma.org

Diane B. Packer
Town Clerk

July 31, 2020

Town Clerk's Report on Polling Location Change
Precincts 1, 2 and 3 to the Natick High School Gym

In accordance with Section 11 of Chapter 115 of the Acts of 2020 the Town Clerk of the Town of Natick respectfully requests that the location of the Town's polling location for Precincts 1, 3 and 2 be relocated from Brown Elementary School (1 Jean Burke Dr.) and Cole Recreation Center (179 Boden Lane) to the Natick High School gym located at 15 West St.

The proposed new location in the Natick High School gym has been thoroughly vetted to ensure that it is fully accessible and meets the requirements for site access, voting equipment, parking, entrance, ramps and building interior. This location is in a public school in the Town of Natick which was built in 2010, is ADA compliant and will not have a disparate adverse impact on access to the polls on the basis of race, national origin, disability, income or age.

In addition, the site is significantly larger than the other sites and can better accommodate social distancing requirements and will be safe for all voters and elections workers on Election Day.

POLLING PLACE AND REGISTRATION SITE ACCESS

LOCATION: Natick High School Gym DATE: 7/31/2020

WARD: _____ PRECINCT: _____

SURVEYOR: Diane Packer SURVEYOR: _____

TITLE: Town Clerk TITLE: _____

This checklist is based on the Secretary of the Commonwealth's regulations for polling place accessibility 950 CMR 51:00. To complete this survey, you will need a level and a tape measure. Please specify in the "Comments" section, below, any issues that need further clarification.

1. Site access (Path of Travel):

☒ (a) The paths of travel to the polling place from the parking lot and from the street are clear, reasonably lit, and unobstructed.

☒ (b) The paths have continuous common surfaces, not interrupted by steps or abrupt changes in level greater than 1/2 inch.

☒ (c) The path of travel is the same or a substantially similar distance for all persons entering the polling place.

Comments (City/Town Representative):

The building is new -
built in 2010-11

Comments (Monitor):

2. Parking:

- ✓ (a) The required number of handicapped parking spaces is provided as follows:

<u>total no. of parking spaces</u>	<u>no. of handicapped spaces required</u>
1 - 25	1
26 - 50	2
51 - 75	3
76 - 100	4
101 - 150	5
151 - 200	6
201 - 300	7
301 - 400	8
401 - 500	9
501 - 1,000	2% of total
1,001 and over	20 plus 1 for each 100 over 1,000

(b) for parking lots striped prior to 9/1/96:

___ (1) The handicapped parking spaces are 8 feet wide and have an adjacent 4 foot access aisle which is painted or striped yellow. The parking lot is reasonably lit.

___ (2) The handicapped parking spaces are identified by a sign at each space or pair of spaces containing the International Symbol of Accessibility, with the top of the sign between 5 and 8 feet high above the ground.

(c) for parking lots striped after 9/1/96:

✓ ___ (1) The handicapped parking spaces are 8 feet wide and have an adjacent 5 foot access aisle which is marked by high contrast painted lines or other high contrast delineation. The parking lot is reasonably lit.

✓ ___ (2) Is there at least one "van accessible" space. (one in every eight accessible spaces must be van accessible, but no less than one) This space is 8 feet wide and has an adjacent 8-foot wide access aisle which is marked by high contrast painted lines or other high contrast delineation. The parking lot is reasonable lit.

✓ ___ (3) Each handicapped parking space is identified by a sign containing the International Symbol of Accessibility, with the top of the sign between 5 and 8 feet high above the ground. Van accessible spaces shall include the words "Van Accessible."

✓ ___ (d) Any sidewalk provided at the handicapped parking spaces has a curb cut (sidewalk ramp), with a slope no greater than 1:12, at each space or pair of spaces.

N/A (e) If no parking lot is available, there is at least one on-street parking space which is at least temporarily designated as a handicapped parking space during the election in front of the polling place.

Comments (City/Town Representative):

Additional spots will be provided - on election day

Comments (Monitor):

3. Entrance

✓
____ (a) At least one entrance to the building is accessible.

✓
____ (b) The approach to the accessible entrance is a paved walk or ramp with a non-slip surface uninterrupted by steps or changes in level greater than 1/2 inch. There is a level space 60 inches from the door on both the exterior and interior sides.

✓
____ (c) Lever handles or other accessible hardware are provided on doors, so that they may be operated with a closed fist.

✓
____ (d) Doorways are at least 32 inches clear width. Door thresholds are no higher than 1/2 inch above the floor.

✓
____ (e) If the main entrance is not accessible, signs direct people to the accessible entrance.

✓
____ (f) If the accessible entrance is not the main entrance, it is unlocked and able to be used without assistance during the same hours as the main entrance.

Comments (City/Town Representative):	Comments (Monitor):

4. Ramps

N/A (a) If the entrance has stairs, there is either a permanent or portable ramp. If permanent, the ramp has a slope no steeper than 1:12.

✓ (b) The ramp is at least 48 inches wide.

✓ (c) The ramp has two pairs of handrails along both sides that are round or oval in shape and are set in pairs, one at a height between 34 and 38 inches and a lower one at a height between 18 and 20 inches.

N/A (d) If the ramp is portable, it is as close to 1:12 as possible, and either handrails or wheel guards at least two inches high on both sides are provided.

(e) Please describe the portable ramp (if applicable):

Comments (City /Town Representative):	Comments (Monitor):

5. Building Interior

✓ (a) All interior doors, approaches, and ramps necessary to obtain access to the polling place comply with 3 and 4 above.

✓ (b) An accessible route which provides a continuous unobstructed path at least 36 inches wide is maintained inside the polling place and shall coincide with the route for the general public.

Comments (City/Town Representative):	Comments (Monitor):
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6. Voting Equipment

✓ (a) All Polls - A sample ballot will be posted on the wall no higher than 48 inches above the floor.

✓ (b) Paper or Datavote ballots - At least one marking shelf (one for each party in a primary for Datavote) provides a clear space under it at least 30 inches wide, at least 27 inches clear to the underside, and no more than 32 inches high to the top. Any Datavote stylus handle is at least 1 ¼ inches thick and at least 3 inches long.

N/A (c) Voting machines - At least one machine has a sample ballot posted inside, not higher than 48 inches.

N/A Voting levers are no higher than 48 inches above the floor, or a "reacher" is available for the upper levels.

Comments (City/Town Representative):	Comments (Monitor):

PLEASE SEND THE COMPLETED SURVEY TO:

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH
ATTN: Bridget Simmons Murphy
Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth
Elections Division
1 Ashburton Place, 17th floor
Boston, MA 02108**