

Warrant Article Questionnaire
Standard (Recurring) Town Agency Articles

Section III – Questions with Response Boxes – To Be Completed By Petition Sponsor

Article #19	Date Form Completed: 3/11/21
Article Title: Increase Personal Exemption Amounts	
Sponsor Name: Board of Assessors	Email: ehenderson@natickma.org

Question	Question																								
1	<p>Provide the article motion exactly as it will appear in the Finance Committee Recommendation Book and presented to Town Meeting for action.</p> <p>Note: Failing to provide a complete motion will likely require a rescheduling of the hearing to a later date.</p>																								
Response	To see if the Town will vote to increase the Personal Exemption Amounts by 62.5% under the provisions of Chapter 73 of the Acts of 1986 as amended by Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1988 which provides for "Optional Additional Property Tax Exemptions" allowing an annually determined, uniform increase in the amount of exemption in General Laws, Chapter 59 Section 5 Clauses 17D, 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, 37A, and 41C (elderly person, disabled veteran, or blind person.)																								
2	At a summary level and very clearly, what is the proposed purpose and objective of this Warrant Article and the accompanying Motion?																								
Response	The purpose of this article is to increase the exemption amounts for qualified applicants including seniors on fixed incomes and disabled veterans to keep pace with inflation and increased taxes.																								
3	What previous Warrant’s has this Article appeared and what has been the actions taken by Finance Committee, other Boards or Committees and Town Meeting?																								
Response	<p>Type response here)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">Warrant Period</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Other Committees</th> <th style="width: 25%;">FinCom Action</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Town Meeting</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>FTM 2020</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>SATM 2020</td> <td></td> <td>Voted Favorably</td> <td>Voted Favorably</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FTM 2019</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>SATM 2019</td> <td></td> <td>Voted Favorably</td> <td>Voted Favorably</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prior</td> <td></td> <td>Voted Favorably</td> <td>Voted Favorably</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Comments: This article has appeared at Town Meeting for 24 years. It has been approved by the Finance Committee as well as at past Town Meetings.</p>	Warrant Period	Other Committees	FinCom Action	Town Meeting	FTM 2020				SATM 2020		Voted Favorably	Voted Favorably	FTM 2019				SATM 2019		Voted Favorably	Voted Favorably	Prior		Voted Favorably	Voted Favorably
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4	Why is it required for the Town of Natick and for the Town Agency sponsor(s)?
Response	To alleviate the tax burden of qualified applicants including seniors on fixed income, blind individuals, and disabled veterans.
5	Does this article require funding, how much, from what source of funds and under whose authority will the appropriation be managed and spent?
Response	Financial relief granted to qualifying taxpayers is funded from the Assessors Overlay Account. This is under the direction of the Board of Assessors. Estimated additional cost (based on FY20 participant count) at roughly \$3,300.
6	To the best of your knowledge has any other actions of recent Town Meetings, Massachusetts General Laws or CMR's or other such legislation or actions, created a conflict for this article's purpose and objective?
Response	N/A
7	To the best of your knowledge does a favorable action on the part of this Town Meeting create a conflict or a possible future conflict with the relevant Town Bylaws, financial and capital plans, comprehensive Master Plan, community values, or any relevant state laws and regulations?
Response	N/A
8	Is there anything contemplated in the proposed motion that is different in how it's expected this article will be executed if acted on favorably by Town Meeting?
Response	N/A
9	If this Warrant Article is not approved by Town Meeting what are the consequences to the Town and to the sponsor(s)? Please be specific on both financial and other consequences?

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Response	If the article is not approved, the Town exemption amounts would revert to the State of Massachusetts guidelines. Financially, that would mean the loss of the 60% increase voted in FY21 and would result in a decrease in the exemption dollars granted to each qualified applicant. For example, a veteran with a 100% disability would see a loss in exemption amount from \$1,600 in FY21 to \$1,000 in FY22 which is the state guideline. Non-approval of this article would result in significant tax increases to all qualified applicants. This will cause an unexpected financial hardship.