

## Natick Select Board

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LOCATED AT

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Natick, Massachusetts

01760

## Town of Natick • Select Board Office

October 3, 2022

David Koffman, Legislative Director  
Massachusetts Municipal Association  
3 Center Plaza  
Suite 610  
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Mr. Koffman:

On behalf of the Town of Natick, I am writing to request the assistance of the Massachusetts Municipal Association in advancing the goals of H. 4575, *An Act authorizing the town of Natick to hold hybrid town meeting*, which was filed but not enacted in the current legislative session.

This bill, along with similar petitions for the towns of Brookline (H.4450), Lexington (H.4876), and Plymouth (H.4742), merits legislative action in the next session. We are hopeful that the MMA will see fit to have a policy committee take on the work of drafting and filing a bill for general applicability.

As the MMA well knows, the COVID-19 pandemic has upended local government, including the important work of public committees. Virtual meetings helped to allow essential local functions to continue, but the authorizing legislation is not yet permanent, while hybrid Town Meeting is not yet allowed.

Allowing hybrid Representative Town Meetings through the general laws, with appropriate guardrails, will help ensure that this vital democratic institution keeps pace with changing times, and serves our communities equitably and efficiently.

Should the MMA take this on, it may be helpful to engage with the Massachusetts Moderators Association legislative committee.

David Koffman, Legislative Director  
October 3, 2022  
Page 2

Thank you for your consideration, and please let us know how we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Joseph, Chair

cc: State Senator Karen Spilka  
State Representative David Linsky  
Town Moderator Frank Foss