

SELECT BOARD NEWS

The [paper] newsletter of the Lincoln, Massachusetts Select Board

Annual Town Meeting: Saturday, March 28 @ 9:30am (sharp!)

Donaldson Auditorium/Todd Lecture Hall, Lincoln School

Visit <https://www.lincolntown.org/1595/2026-Annual-Town-Meeting> for documents and info!

Annual Town Election: Monday, March 30 @ 7:30am - 8:00pm

Voting in the Reed Gym @ the Lincoln School

Get information about mail-in, absentee, and in-person voting at

<https://www.lincolntown.org/1186/Annual-Town-Election>

FROM THE MODERATOR

On Saturday, March 28, 2026 the doors at the Lincoln School will open at 8:30 am.

After the extreme cold and icy driveways of February, we will gather in the warmth of community at our **Annual Town Meeting**. I look forward to that day. **The meeting will begin promptly at 9:30 am! You will receive the Warrant Booklet in the mail. It lists and provides brief descriptions of the issues we will discuss and vote on. Also, in the pages that follow, you will see previews of many of the articles that will come before us.** I urge you to become familiar with them, so you are ready to discuss them and vote at Town Meeting. Your preparation will help to move the

meeting along more quickly. **Please visit the Town Meeting web page to find links to meeting recordings and additional information about the articles** (see above).

Finally, I plan to implement adjustments to the Town Meeting with the hope that the process will be expeditious and clear. The legislative process is not known for efficiency, but I will do what I can - with your help. I/We welcome your observations and feedback.

I look forward to seeing you on the 28th, and please vote in Town Elections on or before March 30th.

- Sarah Cannon Holden, Town Moderator

VOTING INFORMATION

- Town Elections are on Monday, March 30, 2026. Polls are open from 7:30 AM to 8:00 PM, Reed Gym, Lincoln School.
- Mail-in voting has already begun; March 23rd @ 5:00 PM is the deadline for requesting a mail-in ballot.
- Early, in-person voting available March 21, 23, 24, 25, and 26 from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM each day.

FROM THE SELECT BOARD

Calling all voters registered in Lincoln: It's time to become legislators!

- At Town Meeting, all Lincoln voters *in the room* become the legislative body that approves budgets, capital expenditures, and bylaws **NOTE: Mass state law does not allow remote voting.**
- The Town Meeting Study Committee (TMSC) delivered its report and recommendations to the Select Board in February.
- Frequently, residents cited the length of Town Meeting and clarity of process as barriers to participation.
- The TMSC recommended continuing a number of current practices and offered some additional ideas to address these issues.

CONTINUING PRACTICES:

- ✓ Put topics that are likely to be "high-interest" earlier in the meeting.
- ✓ Moderator gives podium presenters time limits.
- ✓ Use the Consent Calendar to speed up approval of routine matters (see page 6).
- ✓ Publish documents, slide decks, and video links to the Town Meeting web page in advance.
- ✓ Visible timer for resident comments and questions.
- ✓ An assistive listening system in the auditorium can be used with a provided over-ear speaker or any t-coil equipped devices including hearing aids or cochlear implants.
- ✓ Electronic voting, aka "clickers."

TRYING NEW THINGS:

- Visible timer for presenters.
- Clearer warrant language. This year's warrant provides a title and (we hope!) a clear synopsis of what the article is asking voters to decide.
- We will offer quick ways to give us feedback about the length and clarity of Town Meeting.

On the following pages, we offer a preview of what we will be voting on (the "Articles") and provide additional information about the process.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to our Town Staff and volunteers for their diligent preparation for Town Meeting, and thank you to our residents for your engagement and participation! Please set time aside to attend the Saturday, March 28th Annual Town Meeting and be sure to vote in our local elections on Monday, March 30th between 7:30am-8:00pm in the Lincoln School's Reed (Middle School) Gym. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve this community and look forward to seeing you at Town Meeting! – Jennifer, Jim, and Kim

TOWN MEETING LOGISTICS

- ✓ **8:30 AM - Check-in**
 - VISIT TABLES SET UP BY LINCOLN BOARDS & ORGANIZATIONS!
- ✓ **9:30 AM - Town Meeting begins promptly!!!**
- ✓ **Location:**
 - DONALDSON AUDITORIUM/TODD LECTURE HALL, LINCOLN SCHOOL, BALLFIELD ROAD
 - CONTACT PEGGY ELDER AT ELDERP@LINCOLNMA.GOV IF YOU REQUIRE A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO ATTEND.
 - WiFi: TownMeeting; lincolnMA
- ✓ **Girl Scouts will offer coffee & snacks starting at 8:30AM**



Does your town board, committee or community organization want to have a table at Town Meeting? If so, please contact Peggy Elder at elderp@lincolnma.gov by NOON on Friday, March 20th!



ARTICLE # 3: REPORT FROM TOWN MEETING STUDY COMMITTEE – SIMPLE MAJORITY

Asks residents to hear the final report from the Town Meeting Study Committee.

ARTICLE #4: COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE – SIMPLE MAJORITY

Asks residents to hear an update from the Community Center Building Committee about project progress.

ARTICLE #5: FY 2027 BUDGET – SIMPLE MAJORITY

The Finance Committee (FinCom) held its *annual budget hearing on February 11th, and will hold a Q&A session for residents on March 11th at 7:30 pm. Zoom information:*

Meeting ID, 849 2072 7318; Password, fincom. All are welcome to attend!

The recording of the February hearing and other materials are posted on the Town Meeting web page, <https://www.lincolntown.org/1595/2026-Annual-Town-Meeting>. Other materials are posted on the Finance Committee FY27 budget page of the town website, <https://www.lincolntown.org/1487/Budget-Information>.

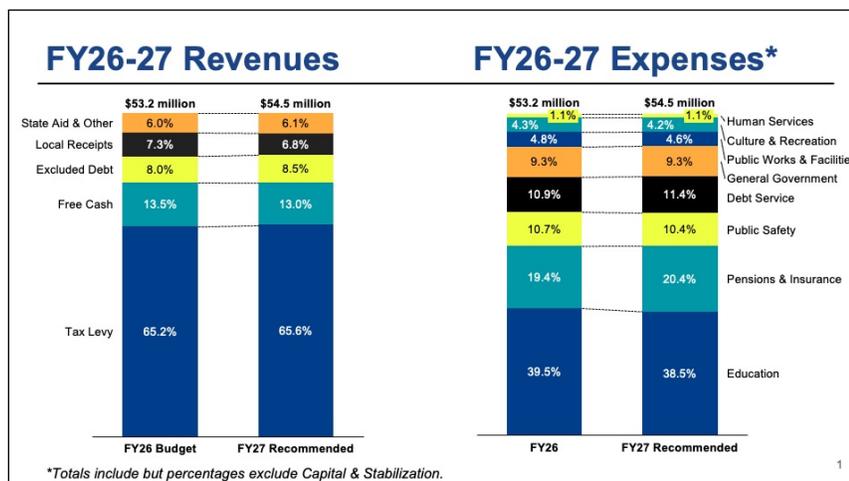
The bar charts and table provide an overview of the proposed FY27 budget, including all Schools.

The Finance Committee recommends a budget that grows +2.5% year-over-year, inclusive of:

- \$1.1 million for a replacement Fire Engine
- \$2.0 million in Library HVAC tax incentive contingencies
- \$1.0 million in tax relief from excess reserves.

This should result in a 3.5% increase on the median FY27 tax bill.

Town of Lincoln FY2027 Proposed Budget				
	FY2026	FY2027	\$ change	% change
REVENUE				
TAX LEVY	34,846,518	35,749,281	902,763	2.6%
EXCLUDED DEBT	4,233,596	4,641,619	408,023	9.6%
LOCAL RECEIPTS	3,698,636	3,719,635	20,999	0.6%
STATE AID	2,873,222	2,983,881	110,659	3.9%
OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS	373,900	364,557	(9,343)	-2.5%
FREE CASH	7,214,151	7,085,810	(128,341)	-1.8%
TOTAL REVENUE	53,240,023	54,544,783	1,304,760	2.5%
EXPENDITURES				
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	4,390,713	4,614,832	224,119	5.1%
PUBLIC SAFETY	5,021,190	5,151,845	130,655	2.6%
EDUCATION				
<i>Lincoln K-8 School</i>	13,827,611	14,173,301	345,690	2.5%
<i>Lincoln Sudbury High School</i>	4,634,079	4,814,250	180,171	3.9%
<i>Vocational School Assessment(s)</i>	108,138	110,841	2,703	2.5%
PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES	2,243,192	2,298,832	55,640	2.5%
HUMAN SERVICES	514,048	544,111	30,063	5.8%
CULTURE & RECREATION	2,039,374	2,092,878	53,504	2.6%
DEBT SERVICE	5,097,782	5,666,619	568,837	11.2%
PENSIONS & INSURANCE	9,107,665	10,141,738	1,034,073	11.4%
CAPITAL PLAN	1,283,744	2,029,716	745,972	58.1%
STABILIZATION FUND	4,070,000	2,023,000	(2,047,000)	-50.3%
WARRANT ARTICLES	902,487	882,820	(19,667)	-2.2%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	53,240,023	54,544,783	1,304,760	2.5%



The Committee continues to work to strike the right balance between current resident tax burden, maintaining adequate reserves, and smoothing taxes to avoid steep year-over-year increases, while planning for potentially significant capital projects on the horizon (e.g., Roads, DPW Site Rebuild).

ARTICLE #6: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT PROJECTS – SIMPLE MAJORITY

Lincoln’s CPA funds are raised through a 3% surcharge on real estate bills and are partially matched by the state from a dedicated fund. Fifteen projects totaling approximately \$1.4M are recommended:

Debt Service: 1) Town Offices Renovation, \$275K; 2) Wang Field, \$95K	\$370K
Housing: 1) Rental assistance program, \$97K; 2) Housing Commission support from regional organization, \$37K; 3) Maintenance of Town-owned affordable rental units, \$41K;	\$175K
Housing: Contribution to the Affordable Housing Trust	\$250K
Historic Preservation: 1) Old Town Hall sprinkler system, \$101K; 2) Pierce House exterior carpentry, \$250K; 3) Lincoln Cemetery, restoration of two gates, \$27K; 4) Town Archives, Preservation of Flint family documents, \$28K; 5) Historical Commission survey of significant buildings, \$7K	\$413K
Parks & Recreation: 1) Open Space & Recreation Plan, \$8.5K; 2) Wading pool circulation lines, \$70K	\$78.5K
Historic Preservation: Debt service on Year 1 temporary borrowing if Article #7 is approved	\$120K
Administrative expenses	\$5K

ARTICLE #7: LIBRARY GROUND SOURCE HEAT PUMP SYSTEM – 2/3 MAJORITY

Funds installation of a geothermal HVAC system at the Library, contingent on receiving at least \$1 million in grant funding. The proposed system would:

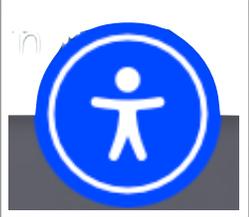
- Provide both heating and cooling
- Includes building code upgrades
- Eligible for about \$1.9M in federal grants
- Considered a 30-year solution

Project details are provided on the Annual Town Meeting page of the Town’s website: <https://www.lincolntown.org/1595/2026-Annual-Town-Meeting>

ARTICLE #8: LIBRARY GAS BOILER – SIMPLE MAJORITY

Offers a conventional, gas-powered boiler instead of the ground source heat pump solution proposed under Article #7. This is the lowest up-front cost option to address the current boiler, but does not address the cooling system and should be considered an incomplete, short-term measure.

Residents will be asked to approve Article #8 even if #7 passes in the event that the town does not receive the \$1M Climate Leader grant.



Did you know?

If you need tools to make the Town website easier to read, click this symbol (silhouette of a person inside a blue circle):

- Control text size and spacing
- Change colors and contrast
- Get descriptions of images...and more!

***How does Town Meeting work? What are the rules?
Visit <https://www.lincolntown.org/1595/2026-Annual-Town-Meeting/>***

ARTICLE #9: CAPITAL COMMITTEE PROJECTS – SIMPLE MAJORITY

The Capital Planning Committee (CapCom) is recommending 15 projects totaling about \$1.9M (including the Fire Truck in Article #10). These projects are funded within the budget and do not require bonding. Amounts are rounded.

Tree bucket truck (DPW)	\$243K
Department of Public Works building repairs (DPW)	\$200K
Classroom presentation system replacement (Lincoln School)	\$106K
Mini excavator (DPW)	\$84K
Firewall replacement (IT Department)	\$58K
Wastewater treatment facility automated control panel (Lincoln-Sudbury High School)	\$22K
Duty firearm replacement (Police)	\$22K
Conservation barn repairs (Conservation)	\$21K
Pavement planer attachment (DPW)	\$21K
Buildings & grounds truck (Lincoln-Sudbury High School)	\$14K
Network core (IT Dept.)	\$11K
Athletics van (Lincoln-Sudbury High School)	\$8K
Body worn camera replacement (Police Department)	\$8K
Billy goat brush mower (Conservation)	\$5K

ARTICLE #10: FIRE TRUCK – SIMPLE MAJORITY

Vote to spend \$1,050,000 from existing reserves (“free cash”) for a new fire engine to replace one that is 27 years old and has been determined to be beyond its useful life.

ARTICLE #11: STABILIZATION FUND – SIMPLE MAJORITY

Vote to add \$2,023,000 to the town’s Stabilization Fund which is used for capital projects.

ARTICLE #13: VOTE TO USE “FREE CASH” TO REDUCE PROPERTY TAX INCREASE – SIMPLE MAJORITY

This articles asks residents to vote to use \$1,000,000 of existing funds to reduce FY27 debt service payments, which then lowers the taxes that need to be raised to fund the budget.

ARTICLE #14: WATER DEPARTMENT CAPITAL PROJECTS– 2/3 MAJORITY

The Water Department is asking voters to approve about \$457K for capital projects to maintain the drinking water system. The projects are paid for with funds raised through water rates.

CONSENT CALENDAR: ARTICLES #15 - #30 – 2/3 MAJORITY*

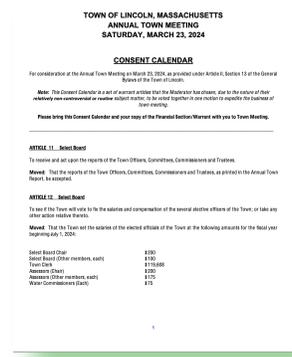
WHAT IS THE CONSENT CALENDAR?

To speed up Town Meeting, the Consent Calendar is a set of articles that the Town Moderator has chosen, due to their relatively routine or non-controversial subject matter, to be voted on together in one motion.

Although the articles are brought together in one motion, if any voter wishes to hear more information about a particular article, they can ask for it to be “held out.” The Moderator will ask voters who wish to hold out an article to raise their hand and say “I would like to hold out Article #X.”

All the remaining articles will be voted on together, and the Moderator will proceed in numerical order with the articles that were held out.

At Town Meeting, the Consent Calendar articles will be printed on green paper. All other articles will be printed on salmon-colored paper (aka “the salmon-colored sheets”).



ARTICLES REGULARLY ON THE WARRANT: CONSENT LIST ARTICLES #15 - #25

These articles cover topics such as Senior and Veterans’ tax work-off programs, routine maintenance of town-owned buildings, contributions to the OPEB Trust Fund (Other Post Employment Benefits) for town employees, acceptance of state highway grant funds (Chapter 90 funds), and a required appropriation from the Town’s cable television revolving fund. Information about each of these articles can be found in the Warrant and on the green consent calendar sheets at Town Meeting.

ONE - TIME ARTICLES: CONSENT LIST ARTICLES #26 - #30

The Moderator has also placed articles 16 - 20 on the Consent Calendar because they are routine matters, even though they do not recur annually.

- ➔ **Article 26: Create a Revolving Fund for Decarbonization/Energy Reduction Projects.** Creates a fund that receives fees generated by the landfill solar project. Funds may be used, with the approval of the Select Board, for future projects that decarbonize town buildings or vehicles, or that reduce the town’s energy use.
- ➔ **Article 27: Community Center Maintenance Revolving Fund.** Establish a revolving fund that allows rental income from the Community Center to be used for year-to-year maintenance.
- ➔ **Article 28: Revise Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund Uses.** Allow revolving funds to be used for an expanded list of cemetery activities.
- ➔ **Article 29: Use Cemetery Perpetual Care Funds for a Survey.** Vote to appropriate \$50K for a survey of a piece of land to be converted to cemetery use and to support cemetery improvements.
- ➔ **Article 30: Doherty’s Easement.** Authorizes the Select Board to grant a permanent easement to the owners of Doherty’s gas station so that they may connect school bus electrical vehicle charging stations located on their property to a transformer located on the adjacent Town property. The permanent easement will replace the temporary approval previously granted by the Select Board under a License Agreement.

**Note: Generally, the Consent Calendar requires a simple majority vote. However, Article 30 requires a 2/3 majority, so if this article stays on the consent list (meaning no voter asks to hold it out), the whole Consent Calendar must be approved by a 2/3 majority vote. If it is held out, the rest of the list would require a simple majority.*



ARTICLE #32: LINCOLN250 EVENT – SIMPLE MAJORITY

Should the Continental Congress declare the Colonies independent from Great Britain?

In 1776, Lincoln Town Meeting had to decide!

How would you vote?

ARTICLE #33: LINCOLN-SUDBURY HIGH SCHOOL AGREEMENT UPDATE – SIMPLE MAJORITY

The Lincoln-Sudbury School Committee formed an inter-town working group to update the Regional Agreement to bring it into alignment with current laws and practices. This article seeks to approve the Agreement amendments as recommended by the District School Committee. No substantive changes are proposed.

ARTICLE #34: ELIMINATE CONFLICT BETWEEN WETLANDS BYLAWS – 2/3 MAJORITY

Removes the Wetland and Watershed Protection District (Zoning bylaw section 12.2) from the Zoning Bylaw to eliminate inconsistencies with the Wetlands Bylaw. The bylaw can be found at <https://www.lincolntown.org/DocumentCenter/View/105110/Zoning-Bylaw-ATM-2025>.

ARTICLE #35: AMENDMENT TO “DARK SKIES” BYLAW – 2/3 MAJORITY

The current lighting bylaw (referred to as the “dark skies” bylaw) is in section 13 of the town’s zoning bylaws. It requires new lighting that is installed to be fully shielded and for the Correlated Color Temperature (CCT) to have a value of 3000K or below. The proposed bylaw would:

- Require compliance for any new fixture installed; for new construction or an addition to or renovation of more than 30% of an existing building, compliance required for all fixtures
- Govern municipal, commercial, and residential properties
- Lower the CCT values to 2700K or below
- Provide definitions of terms
- Govern the total amount of light that may be emitted by outdoor fixtures on a property
- Read it in its entirety on the Town Meeting page of the website

Learn more about the Dark Skies Subcommittee of the Planning Board at:

<https://www.lincolntown.org/1550/Dark-Skies-Subcommittee>

ARTICLE #36: CITIZENS’ PETITION TO ASK THE STATE FOR PERMISSION TO BAN ANTICOAGULANT PESTICIDES – SIMPLE MAJORITY

Pesticides are controlled at the state level. A resident group, *Save Lincoln Wildlife*, is trying to put pressure on the state to ban anticoagulant pesticides. If approved, article 35 would authorize the Select Board to submit a “home rule petition” to the state legislature that would give Lincoln permission to ban these pesticides within town (except in certain situations).

Find out more at <https://www.savelincolnwildlife.org/>

Are you signed up for SelectConnect? Visit www.lincolntown.org to get started!

KEY DATES BEFORE TOWN MEETING

Monday, March 9 @ 6:30PM, Select Board Meeting, HYBRID:

Agenda will include:

- An opportunity for the public to learn more about the Library Heating/Cooling (HVAC) geothermal proposal
- A review of the proposed updates to the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School (LSRHS) Agreement
- A review of the Dark Skies bylaw

Tuesday, March 10 @ 7:00PM, Planning Board Meeting, HYBRID:

Agenda will include the public hearing for the proposed "Dark Skies" outdoor lighting bylaw.

Wednesday, March 11 @ 7:30PM, Finance Committee Budget Hearing, HYBRID: Opportunity for the public to ask questions about the proposed FY27 Budget.

Wednesday, March 18 @ 6:30PM, Moderator's Meeting, HYBRID: The purpose of the Moderator's meeting is to iron out procedural details (e.g., clarifying meeting protocols, identifying presenters, establishing presentation times, etc.) with the presenting boards and committees to help ensure a smooth and efficiently managed Town Meeting. Members of the public are welcome to attend!

Monday, March 23 @ 6:30PM, Select Board Meeting, HYBRID: Agenda will include final preparations for Town Meeting.

Find links to meetings by visiting the town calendar at [https://lincolntown.org/calendar.aspx?CID=0&Keywords=&startDate=&enddate=&](https://lincolntown.org/calendar.aspx?CID=0&Keywords=&startDate=&enddate=)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Town of Lincoln depends on its citizen volunteers to work with one another on town-wide issues and to help shape our community. *The Select Board is seeking interested volunteers for the following Select Board appointed committees:*

- ✓ Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Anti-Racism Committee (IDEA) - Up to 2 members; IDEA would welcome a high school-aged member!
- ✓ Housing Commission - 1 member

For information or an application, please contact Peggy Elder at elderp@lincolntown.org or 781-259-2601.

**Note, there may be additional open positions after March.*

VISIT THE VOLUNTEER PAGE ON THE TOWN WEBSITE: [HTTPS://LINCOLNTOWN.ORG/542/VOLUNTEERS-NEEDED](https://lincolntown.org/542/VOLUNTEERS-NEEDED)

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Jennifer Glass, Chair
Jim Hutchinson
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