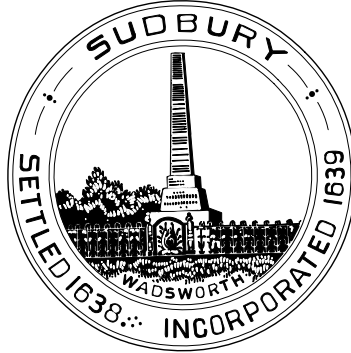


Town of Sudbury Massachusetts



2013 OFFICIAL WARRANT ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

Including Regional District School Committee

March 25, 2013

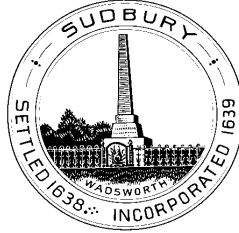
Polls Open 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Precincts 1, 1A, 2 & 5 - Fairbank Community Center, Fairbank Road

Precincts 3 & 4 - Sudbury Town Hall, Concord Road

The Warrant for the 2013 Annual Town Meeting, to be held Monday, May 6, 2013, will be issued and mailed separately.

**TOWN OF SUDBURY
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
WARRANT**



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Middlesex, ss.

To the Constable of the Town of Sudbury:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Sudbury, qualified to vote in Town Elections, that voters residing in Precincts 1, 1A, 2 and 5 should meet at the Fairbank Community Center and voters residing in Precincts 3 and 4 should meet at the Town Hall in said Town on Monday, March 25, 2013, at seven o'clock in the forenoon; then and there to choose by official ballot in accordance with law, one member of the Board of Assessors, two Goodnow Library Trustees, one member of the Board of Health, one member of the Board of Selectmen, one member of the Sudbury School Committee, two members of the Planning Board, all for three years; four members of the Park and Recreation Commission, two for three years and two for two years; and one member of the Sudbury Housing Authority for five years. Included as part of the Annual Town Election will be an election of two members for three years each to the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional District School Committee. In addition, voters will be requested to vote on the following ballot question:

BALLOT QUESTION

Shall the Town of Sudbury vote to approve the provisions of Chapter 410 of the Acts of 2012, amending Section 1, Part III, s.5(a) of Chapter 131 of the Acts of 1994 to increase the Board of Selectmen in the Town of Sudbury from three to five members for terms of 3 years each, so arranged so that the term of at least one member shall expire each year?

YES _____

NO _____

SUMMARY:

This Special Act results from the action of Sudbury voters at the September 24, 2012 Special Town Meeting, pursuant to a petition Warrant Article, to petition the Legislature to allow the Town to revise Chapter 131 of the Acts of 1994 to increase the Board of Selectmen from three members to five members. The Legislature's deliberation resulted in Chapter 410 of the Acts of Two Thousand Twelve. This Act's provision increasing the Board of Selectmen membership by amendment of the Town's charter requires approval at the Annual Town Election held in March of 2013. If the provision is approved by a majority vote, the Act sets forth the election date parameters to effectuate the membership increase, including the terms of those to be elected by each method. Essentially, additional Selectmen can be elected by a vote at the Annual Town Election of 2014 or by means of a Special Town Election, held no later than the Annual Town Election of 2014, called by the Board of Selectmen at the request of 10% of Sudbury

registered voters or by the Board of Selectmen itself. The number of Selectmen and their respective terms are set forth in the Act for each election method.

A “yes” vote means that Chapter 131 of the Acts of 1994 is amended to increase the Board of Selectmen from three to five members. A “no” vote means the amendment is not approved and the Board of Selectmen remains at three members.

ARGUMENT FOR PASSAGE:

The case for the change from 3 to 5 Selectmen boils down to a few simple ideas. More representatives will mean:

More Representation. In 375 years Sudbury’s grown from a few hundred residents to over 18,000. More representatives will better represent our scale and diversity, and help bring us together as a town.

More Capacity. Our 3 current part-time BOS volunteers oversee 3 cost centers, 92 committees/ departments, and an \$86 Million budget. If we want more proactive leadership to face the more complex challenges we’re dealing with – improving our schools, managing our capital requirements, keeping residential tax rates under control, and developing a stronger commercial tax base... all with an eye toward to increase our property values – we need a 5-member BOS like the 135 other MA towns who’ve already added 2.

More Capability. Our town is blessed with smart people, with skills and experience in all virtually all aspects of management, operations, and development. Bringing more of those skills to bear in making Sudbury a better place just makes sense.

After a lengthy town wide conversation, and legal due process from L-S to Beacon Hill, it’s time for Sudbury to open up. Please vote YES on this measure, and let’s move forward as a town together.

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION:

The petition to increase the Board of Selectmen to a five (5) member board seeks to amend the Town’s Charter. It has not been properly studied in conjunction with the Town’s history of governance, its current organizational structure and needs, and the benefits and pitfalls that may result from such a change. In all proposals for Charter amendment, care should be given to consider all options, recommendations should be made without bias, and voters should be encouraged to cast a fully informed and unhurried vote. Unfortunately, none of these factors have been met in the current proposal. Even the Massachusetts Legislature recognized the deficiencies in the original Home Rule petition and attempted to provide more public process to accommodate these shortfalls.

The proponents argue that there is great urgency in this matter without proper justification of what that means in the context of more than 350 years of Town governance. They fend off requests for further study without acknowledging the necessity of having to re-write bylaws, policies and procedures regarding the Board’s quorum and voting standards. They point to a larger population and argue that the Board should be expanded to better represent all residents without addressing how such an increase would achieve demographic diversity. They argue that a few have been disenfranchised without considering the numerous boards and committees that already welcome and encourage participation.

The petition ignores the steps taken in 1994 when the Town embarked on the last Charter amendment and suggests a dangerous precedent for the future.

Polls will open at seven o'clock in the forenoon and will be closed at eight o'clock in the evening.

And you are required to serve this Warrant by posting an attested copy thereof at the Town Hall at least seven days before the time appointed for such election.

Hereof fail not and make due return of the Warrant by your doing thereon to the Town Clerk, at or before the time of election aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 26th day of February, 2013.

SELECTMEN OF SUDBURY:

Lawrence W. O'Brien

Robert C. Haarde

John C. Drobinski