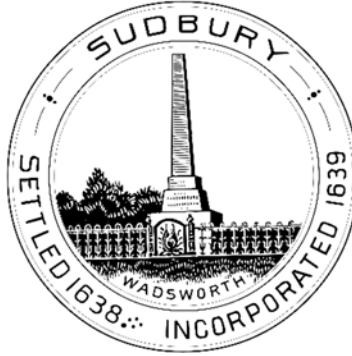


# **Town of Sudbury Massachusetts**



## **2016 OFFICIAL WARRANT**

### **ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION** Including Regional District School Committee

**March 28, 2016**

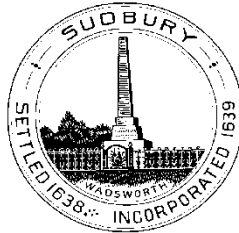
**Polls Open 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.**

Precincts 1, 1A, 2 & 5 - Fairbank Community Center, 40 Fairbank Road  
Precincts 3 & 4 - Sudbury Town Hall, 322 Concord Road

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The Warrant for the 2016 Annual Town Meeting, to be held  
Monday, May 2, 2016, 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:

GREETING:

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 28, 2016, 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, one member of the Board of Health, one member of the Sudbury School Committee, two members of the Board of Selectmen, two Goodnow Library Trustees, two Park and Recreation Commissioners and two members of the Planning Board, all for three 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 questions:

**Ballot Question No. 1**

"Shall an act passed by the general court in the year 2016, entitled 'An Act extending a certain property tax exemption for seniors in the town of Sudbury', be accepted?"

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

**SUMMARY:** The 2015 Annual Town Meeting voted to petition the state legislature to extend the town's means tested property tax exemption for senior citizens. The means tested senior tax exemption was first enacted under Chapter 169 of the Acts of 2012 (the Act) for a three year period, and reduces property taxes for certain low and moderate income seniors. The Legislature enacted Chapter 10 of the Acts of 2016, which extends the means tested senior tax exemption for another three years, and allows town meeting to vote on further extensions.

While preserving the current state wide exemptions received by senior citizens, those seniors whose income qualifies them for the Circuit Breaker exemption and who make application under this program are eligible to receive an additional property tax exemption, capped at 50%, if they meet

specific criteria and are approved by the Board of Assessors. The criteria include 10-year Sudbury residency, age 65 and above with any joint applicant to be age 60 and above, and the value of the home no greater than the average Sudbury home plus 10%.

Funds for this program are derived from a burden shift within the residential tax levy. The total of all exemptions granted under this Act are set by the Board of Selectmen in a range of ½% to 1% percent of the fiscal years total residential tax levy.

This ballot question would accept Chapter 10 of the Acts of 2016, which amends Chapter 169 of the Acts of 2012 (the Act) by extending the senior means test exemption for an additional three years, and by providing that the Sudbury town meeting shall vote in 2018, and every three years thereafter if the Act has not expired, whether to extend the Act for an additional three year period.

A “yes” vote on this question will accept Chapter 10 of the Acts of 2016, extending the means tested senior tax exemption for three years and allowing future extensions by town meeting vote; a “no” vote would reject Chapter 10 of the Acts of 2016 and terminate the means tested senior tax exemption.

**ARGUMENT FOR PASSAGE:** For the past three years Sudbury has provided relief to qualified low & moderate income older resident applicants limiting their property taxes to 10% of income. Each year, providing exemptions to all qualified applicants was accomplished by a tax burden shift of less than ½% (a \$50 increase for a \$10,000 property tax bill).

Extending the means tested senior exemption will continue to enable eligible low & moderate income seniors to stay in their homes despite the burden of rising property taxes and limited incomes. The 50% maximum property tax exemption means beneficiaries still fully pay their share of town services. Helping seniors stay in Sudbury helps reduce future tax increases for everyone because when senior families leave, younger families invariably move in, adding to our school costs.

This program has enjoyed wide support. At the 2012 Special Election, 70% of voters approved the pilot program. The Board of Selectmen sponsored the 2015 town meeting article to petition the legislature to permanently extend the senior exemption. It was unanimously supported by the Finance committee and passed with more than 90% of town meeting votes.

Your “Yes” vote is to extend the means tested senior exemption program indefinitely subject to town meeting reauthorization in 2018 and every three years thereafter.

**ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION:** Chapter 10 of the Acts of 2016 would extend the means tested senior property tax exemption. This program reduces property taxes for certain low and moderate income seniors, however, when these property tax owners are granted an exemption, it means that the amount exempted is shifted to the remaining tax payers.

### **Ballot Question No 2**

"Shall the Town's acceptance of Chapter 31 of the General Laws (Civil Service law) be revoked for all positions in the Police Department?"

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

SUMMARY: The members of the Police Department are currently subject to the state Civil Service law, General Laws Chapter 31, which governs matters such as original appointments, promotions, and termination from employment. In 1954, the town at the annual town election voted to place the police department under the Civil Service statute. The voters are now being asked whether to revoke that 1954 vote.

This ballot question would revoke the town's acceptance of General Laws Chapter 31, the state Civil Service statute, for all positions in the Police Department.

A "yes" vote on this question will revoke the town's acceptance of General Laws Chapter 31 for all positions in the Police Department; a "no" vote would retain the town's acceptance of General Laws Chapter 31 for positions in the Police Department.

ARGUMENT FOR PASSAGE: Civil Service is an antiquated system that drastically restricts hiring parameters based on state wide needs; not the specific needs of Sudbury. Sudbury entered in to Civil Service in 1954 with the primary purpose being to deter unjust hiring practices, improper discipline methods and/or political interference. As time progressed many other mechanisms are now in place to prevent such occurrences. Transitioning to a non-civil service department will allow for a larger, more talented pool of candidates to find the best for Sudbury. The hiring parameters can be tailored to the needs of Sudbury. The majority of support services previously provided by Civil Service have become the Town's responsibility given the substantial reduction in Civil Service employees. Many area departments were or have become non-civil service; these include Lincoln, Concord, Acton, Maynard, Stow, Weston, Wellesley, Carlisle among others. Other area departments pursuing the possibility of leaving are Wayland, Natick and Framingham. The Chief of Police and all police personnel unanimously support leaving Civil Service. This change will greatly enhance the ability of the police department to attract the proper candidates for employment with the department.

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION: The state Civil Service laws were enacted to promote fairness and impartiality in hiring, promotions, job termination, and other employment decisions. Revoking acceptance of Civil Service for positions in the police department means that the Civil Service requirements and procedures will no longer apply to the police department.

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 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2016.

SELECTMEN OF SUDBURY:

Patricia A. Brown

Susan N. Iuliano

Charles C. Woodard

Robert C. Haarde

Leonard A. Simon



**Board of Selectmen  
Sudbury, MA 01776**

**U.S. POSTAGE  
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Permit No. 4  
Sudbury, MA 01776  
ECRWSS**

**POSTAL PATRON  
SUDBURY  
MASSACHUSETTS 01776**