

MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MODERATOR

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

It is my great honor to serve as Moderator for this year's Annual Town Meeting. This will mark Medfield's first Town Meeting since 2002 that has not been presided over by Scott McDermott, who I would like to thank for his many years of dedicated service to our Town.

It is now my privilege to invite you to attend Medfield's Annual Town Meeting to be held on **Monday, May 6, 2024 at 7:00 PM in the Amos Clark Kingsbury High School Gymnasium.**

For all regular Town Meeting participants, and those planning to attend this year – you have my sincere appreciation and I look forward to seeing you on May 6. For those that might need a little nudge – consider that your attendance at Annual Town Meeting means you will not be relying on a small number of your neighbors to make decisions on your behalf. To add a little more context:

- The voters at Annual Town Meeting approve Medfield's budget and vote on new legislation – much of which will affect this and future years' budgets.
- The yearly budget has a direct impact on your tax bill and how those tax dollars are spent.
- There are roughly 9,000 registered voters living in Medfield, and every one of those voters is eligible to be a legislator at Annual Town Meeting with an equal vote.
- It only takes 250 voters to start the voting.
- Last year, only 318 voters attended Annual Town Meeting.

Given these attendance figures, you may be wondering "why Town Meeting?" The answer is that we are limited by state law. Most know that Annual Town Meeting is a longstanding Medfield tradition, but you may not realize that it is the most common form of government among Massachusetts' many towns. In fact, 260 of Massachusetts' 301 towns employ an Open Town Meeting form of government. So it is not only a tradition, but it is the most popular and proven form of government amongst Medfield's peer communities.

I share the above only as a brief illustration of some of the reasons why attendance at Town Meeting is so important, and invite you to come see for yourself and draw your own conclusions. Medfield is a Town with a rich past and a vibrant present. I hope you will join me on May 6 and exercise your right to choose Medfield's future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael E. Pastore
Town Moderator