

"Preserving public trust and providing professional services"

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MASHPEE TOWN MANAGER'S MESSAGE

November 9, 2023

I am making this statement in order to ensure that accurate information is in the hands of voters in advance of the Special Election. On Tuesday, November 28, 2023, from 7 A.M. to 8 P.M., voters will be provided the opportunity to approve a debt exclusion pursuant to so-called Proposition 2 ½ at their respective precinct. (Precinct 1 and 2 located at the Mashpee Senior Center, Precincts 3 and 4 at Mashpee Town Hall, and Precinct 5 at the Mashpee Library.) The purpose of the ballot question is to decide whether to authorize bonds to fund the planning and designing of wastewater collection, treatment, and effluent recharge initiatives, including all expenses and payment costs incidental and related thereto, including costs relating to the acquisition of necessary easements and other interests in real property. This project is separate and distinct from the Phase 1 sewer construction and wastewater treatment plant authorized and paid for by prior Town Meeting actions in 2021 and 2022.

Voters that support the initiative and action described should vote "Yes" and voters that oppose the initiative and described action should vote "No." This Special Election ballot question is directly linked to Article 1 at the October 16, 2023, Town Meeting. When Article 1 was approved at Town Meeting it authorized the Town to spend up to \$7.5 million on this project and of that, to borrow up to \$4.5 million and to issue bonds or notes as necessary, pending approval of the ballot question.

If voters approve the ballot question, it authorizes the Town to borrow up to the \$4.5 million and to increase tax assessments on a temporary basis until the bonds are paid back, a period not to exceed 5 years. As a debt exclusion, the tax increase is temporary and expires with the term of the debt incurred as opposed to a Proposition 2 ½ operating override, which does not expire.

As a matter of law, the language of the ballot question is dictated by, and is compliant with, the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59, Section 21C. Further, the debt exclusion authorization that is the subject of the ballot question is limited to the amount of the borrowing authorization approved by Town Meeting in its vote under Article 1 (\$4.5 million) as previously emphasized. The language for the ballot question is consistent with language used in previous debt exclusions. The language was approved by General Counsel and Bond Counsel. I hope this clears up any confusion or misunderstandings.

Respectfully,

RODNEY C. COLLINS
Town Manager