

Index of Warrant Articles

Article #

- 1 REPORTS
- 2 ACCEPT AND ADJUST CERTAIN SENIOR AND VETERAN TAX RELIEF MEASURES
- 3 FY2025 APPROPRIATIONS FROM OVERLAY RELEASE
- 4 CITIZENS PETITION - BEECH STREET CENTER



**TOWN OF BELMONT
WARRANT FOR 2025 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 21, 2025
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Middlesex, ss.

To any of the Constables of the Town of Belmont in said County:

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are required to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Belmont, qualified as the law requires to vote in elections and Town Affairs, to convene on **May 21, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** in person and remote at the Belmont High School Auditorium or by means of the audio/video conferencing platform described more particularly below, and to notify and warn the Town Meeting Members to meet and act at said time and place on the following Articles.

Interested members of the public may see and hear the proceedings by tuning in to the Belmont Media Center's live broadcast of the proceedings on Belmont cable television (Comcast channel 8, Verizon channel 28) or by live-streaming at www.belmontmedia.org.

Town Meeting Members attending remotely may participate using the provided Zoom link or watch the meeting live on Belmont Media.

Town Meeting Members are encouraged to appear in person or may participate in the meeting through the "Zoom" videoconferencing service. Login credentials will be provided to all Town Meeting Members. Town Meeting Members who are able, are encouraged to attend in person. Those Town Meeting Members who do wish to participate remotely are encouraged to attend pre-Town Meeting training sessions to familiarize themselves with the remote voting platform, ensure adequate at-home technological capabilities, and address technical issues in advance.

ARTICLE 1

REPORTS

To hear the report of the Select Board and other Town Officers, any Committee heretofore appointed and to act thereon.

This article accepts the reports of Town departments appearing in the Annual Town Report and allows the Select Board and other Town officers, boards and committees to report orally to the Town Meeting on appropriate matters not otherwise appearing on the Warrant. This article stays "on the table" throughout the Town Meeting to allow Town officials and committees to report at the call of the Moderator.

Majority vote required for passage.

ARTICLE 2 ACCEPT AND ADJUST CERTAIN SENIOR AND VETERAN TAX RELIEF MEASURES

To see if the Town will vote to accept:

- A. Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5C $\frac{1}{2}$, which provides for an additional real estate exemption for taxpayers who are granted personal exemptions on their domiciles under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, including certain blind persons, veterans, surviving spouses and seniors, and to provide that the additional exemption shall be up to 100 percent of the personal exemption, to be effective for exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025;
- B. Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22I, which authorizes an annual increase in the amount of the exemption granted under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, Clause 22C, Clause 22E and Clause 22F by the percentage increase in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous year as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025;
- C. Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22J, which authorizes an annual increase in the amount of the exemption granted under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, Clause 22C, Clause 22E and Clause 22F by 100% of the personal exemption amount, subject to the conditions in Clause 22J, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025, or the earliest date permitted by law;
- D. An eligibility update for Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41C, to reduce the minimum age of eligibility from 70 to 65, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025;
- E. Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41D, which provides that the amounts of the gross receipts and whole estate, real and personal, as set forth in Clause 41C, shall be increased annually by an amount equal to the increase in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous year as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025;

- F. Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 17E, which authorizes an annual increase in the asset limitation for the exemption granted under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 17D by the percentage increase in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous year as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025; and
- G. Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 17F, which authorizes an annual increase in the amount of the exemption granted under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 17D by the percentage increase in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous year as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025;

or take any other action relative thereto.

This article is to adopt available local options in state law to increase certain property tax exemptions or increase income and estate limitations to qualify for those exemptions.

Submitted by the Select Board

The Select Board, Board of Assessors, Warrant Committee and Senior Tax Relief Working Group will report on this Article.

Majority vote required for passage.

ARTICLE 3

FY2025 APPROPRIATIONS FROM OVERLAY RELEASE

To see if the Town will appropriate from the recent release from the Overlay Surplus by the Board of Assessors or take any other action relative thereto.

This provides an opportunity for Town Meeting to decide whether to appropriate any of the \$600,000 recently released from the Overlay by the Board of Assessors, transfer a portion to a Stabilization Fund, or let it fall to Free Cash for FY2025.

Submitted by the Select Board

The Select Board and Warrant Committee will report on this Article.

Majority vote required for passage.

ARTICLE 4

CITIZENS PETITION - BEECH STREET CENTER

To see if the Town Meeting will by a two-thirds vote (such 2/3s vote being that specified in the June 8, 2011, Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Belmont and Friends of the Belmont Council on Aging, Inc.) approve the Town's proposed alterations, conversions, and use of space in the Beech Street Center for Town departments, as generally outlined and presented

at the Council on Aging meeting on April 23, 2025, else such alterations, conversions, and use shall not occur.

Or in any way act thereon.

Submitted by the Petitioners, Paul Joy and Robert McGaw

The Petitioners will report on this Article.

Majority vote required for passage.



Given under our hands this 2nd day of May, 2025.

BELMONT SELECT BOARD

Elizabeth H. Dionne

Elizabeth Dionne, Chair

Matt Taylor

Matt Taylor, Vice Chair

Taylor Yates

Taylor Yates, Member

A True Copy, Attest
Eileen O'Brien Ashman
Town Clerk of Belmont, MA

