

# Town of Arlington

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## Declaration of Recess and Continuation of the May 27, 2020 Town Meeting

In accordance with M.G.L. c. 39, § 10A, as recently amended by Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, I hereby provide notice to the Town of Arlington that I have determined that it is in the public's interest, due to the public health and safety risks posed by the novel coronavirus COVID-19 that I am issuing this Declaration of Recess and Continuation of The Town of Arlington's Annual Town Meeting with the continuation date to be June 15th, 2020, 6:30 p.m. at Town of Arlington High School Football Stadium at W. A. Peirce Field. Rain dates of June 17<sup>th</sup> or June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

As required by the provisions of M.G.L. c. 39, § 10A, I have consulted with Members of the Select Board, our Town Manager and other public safety officials and the Director of Health and Human Services, Christine Bongiorno. This action is being taken after careful and considerable deliberation about the implications of the continued spread of COVID-19, the lack of containment, and the risk to the population inherent in public gatherings at this time, and is further based upon the orders and recommendations issued by the Governor, including all coronavirus related Executive Orders. The decision was also based on the ongoing declaration of a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and in the United States. I have also reviewed guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A significant consideration in this decision includes the important role of Town Meeting as the legislative body of the Town, and my obligation to ensure that all members of our community who wish to participate are able to do. Being respectful of the health, safety, and wellbeing of the Town Meeting Representatives, as all of the citizens, of the Town of Arlington, I have determined in accord with M.G.L. c. 39, § 10A that the health risks associated with COVID-19 will mean that some will be unable to attend the 2020 Annual Town Meeting on May 27<sup>th</sup>, and that they will therefore be deprived of the opportunity to participate in such meeting. A continuation will avoid forcing our citizens to choose between participating in the Town Meeting and managing their health and safety in a manner most appropriate for them. We will also utilize the next three weeks to fully explore all options and set up necessary safety protocols.

We all understand that this action and decision will have a tremendous impact on all members of our community. But, by taking this necessary precaution we can all do our part to slow the spread of the virus, reduce the number of people infected, and avoid overwhelming our health care system.

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