

INFORMATION FOR VOTERS

TOWN OF GROTON



**2022 BALLOT QUESTIONS
TOWN ELECTION
MAY 24, 2022**

**Published by:
Select Board
Town of Groton**

Town of Groton (MA)
2022 Annual Town Election
Voting Information

- **Annual Town Election**

- Groton is holding its Annual Town Election on **Tuesday, May 24, 2022**
- Polls will be open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM
- Polling Locations:
 - Precinct 1: The Center, 163 West Main Street (Route 225)
 - Precinct 2: Groton Dunstable Middle School North, 344 Main Street
 - Precinct 3: Groton Dunstable Middle School North, 344 Main Street
 - Precinct 3A: The Center, 163 West Main Street (Route 225)

- **Purpose of the Annual Town Election**

- All Town Offices, Question 1 (Town Clerk) and Question 2 (Town Seal)
- Questions 1 and 2 are explained in this brochure.

- **Absentee Ballots**

- Absentee ballots are available for the Town Election.
- The last day and hour to request an absentee ballot **by appointment** is Monday, May 23 at 12:00 Noon.
- The last day and hour to request an absentee ballot **by mail** is Wednesday, May 18 at 5:00 PM.
- Please allow time for mailing or be prepared to vote in the Town Clerk's office.

- **Early Voting**

- Early Voting by Mail is not available for the town election. The last day and hour to request an Absentee Ballot by Mail is Wednesday, May 18 at 5:00 PM.
- Early Voting in Person is not available for the town election.

- **Voter information**

- If you would like to check on your voter registration, polling location or have another voting related question, please contact the Town Clerk's office
 - Office: 978-448-1100
 - Email: Townclerk@grotonma.gov
 - Web: www.grotonma.gov

- **Annual Town Election Information**

- Please visit our web site at www.grotonma.gov
- Look under Government for Election Information and then select Town Elections

**BALLOT QUESTION INFORMATION
For May 24, 2022 ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION**

As authorized by Chapter 53, section 18B of the General Laws

WHY ARE YOU RECEIVING THIS INFORMATION?

In towns that accept the provisions of section 18B, as Groton did by vote of the 2015 Spring Town Meeting, the Select Board is required to print and mail to each household where a registered voter resides information relating to each question that will appear on the town election ballot. The information must include (1) the full text of each question; (2) a fair and concise summary of each question, including a one sentence statement describing the effect of a yes or no vote, prepared by the town counsel; and (3) arguments for and against each question, which may not exceed 150 words. When a voter question will appear on the ballot, the statute provides for a request by the town counsel for "written arguments from the principal proponents and opponents of the question," with a notice period of at least 7 days. The statute also provides that the principal proponents and principal opponents shall be the persons determined by the town counsel to be best able to present the arguments for and against the question. If no argument is received from a proponent or opponent, an argument must be prepared by the town counsel.

Ballot Question #1:

QUESTION 1:

Shall an Act passed by the General Court in the Year 2022, entitled "An Act Relative to the Charter and the Town Clerk in the Town of Groton" be accepted?

YES _____ NO _____

Summary of Question #1:

Ballot question #1 seeks approval of an amendment to the Groton Town Charter to change the position of Town Clerk from elected to appointed.

The Fall 2021 Town Meeting authorized a petition to the Massachusetts Legislature to amend the Groton Town Charter to change the position of Town Clerk from an elected position to a position appointed by the Select Board, and to make the amendment subject to acceptance by the voters of Groton through a ballot question. Legislation effecting this change has passed the Massachusetts Legislature and has been signed by the Governor.

Effect of a Yes or No Vote:

A YES VOTE will change the position of Town Clerk from an elected position to an appointed position.

A NO VOTE will leave the position of Town Clerk as an elected position.

Arguments In Favor And Against Question #1:

IN FAVOR: A YES vote on Question #1

Vote YES to make Town Clerk an appointed position instead of an elected one, so that when our Town Clerk retires, the Select Board can conduct a search and hire the best candidate available, from a pool of qualified applicants.

The job of Town Clerk has grown and changed significantly in recent years. In addition to responding to questions from the public, the position requires extensive knowledge of complex Election, Public Record, Open Meeting and Conflict of Interest laws. The Town Clerk needs to be a detail-oriented person who also has people skills and impeccable integrity. There is no guarantee that the winner of an election would actually be able to do the job. The application and interview process by which we appoint our Police and Fire Chiefs is the best way to ensure that our Town Clerk has the qualifications and skills necessary for this increasingly challenging position.

AGAINST: A NO vote on Question #1

In the American system of government, separation of powers is essential for an enduring democracy. At the state and federal levels, checks and balances are created by distributing roles and responsibilities among the three branches of government. In the town meeting form of government, checks and balances need to exist between the select board and town manager (effectively the town's executive branch) and the town's voters (its legislative branch). A yes vote will make the town's executive branch in charge of selecting the person overseeing how the legislative branch selects its representatives. Until it has been demonstrated that the legislative branch cannot effectively conduct its elections, it's premature to transfer responsibility for elections from the legislative to the executive branch. A no vote maintains the current separation of powers.

Ballot Question #2:

QUESTION 2:

NON-BINDING REFERENDUM – Should the Seal of the Town of Groton be modified by removing the words “Holy Bible” from the image of the book in the center of the Seal, leaving the image of the book blank?

YES _____ NO _____

Summary of Question #2:

The purpose of this non-binding ballot question #2 is to gauge public opinion regarding the possible removal of the words “Holy Bible” from the Town Seal.

The Town Seal currently appears as follows:



After removing the words “Holy Bible” from the image of the book in the center of the Seal, the Town Seal would appear as follows:



This question is non-binding. The results of the vote on this question will inform the Select Board when considering next steps with respect to the Town Seal.

Effect of a Yes or No Vote:

A YES VOTE will inform the Select Board that the Town Seal should be modified by removing the words “Holy Bible” from the image of the book in the center of the Seal, leaving the image of the book blank.

A NO VOTE will inform the Select Board that the Town Seal should not be changed.

Arguments In Favor And Against Question #2:

IN FAVOR: A YES vote on Question #2

Please vote YES to approve updating our beloved Town Seal by making it more inclusive, while keeping the original emphasis on Faith and Labor as the pillars of our community life. The open book signifies any sacred text that your Faith turns to, or signifies that your faith lies in education, science, philosophy, and knowledge. Labor, signified by a rustic farm implement, highlights the roots of our town in our agricultural past. With this revision, our Town Seal will reflect and honor our history, our current diverse population, and our shared beliefs about valuing our land, and valuing the wisdom found in the printed word. Additionally, by removing the reference to one religion, this modification respects our country’s founding principle of Freedom of Religion and supports the Separation of Church and State. Vote YES now so our Fall Town Meeting can vote to implement this revision to our Town Seal.

AGAINST: A NO vote on Question #2

This is a lose-lose, negative proposal. Wiping HOLY BIBLE from the seal, if approved, will *alienate and hurt* many; if it fails, its proponents will remain bitter. It only furthers divisiveness. It should be rejected and replaced by *understanding* or perhaps one day, a *unifying, positive* alternative.

History should not be *erased*, but honored! The heart of the seal *is* the HOLY BIBLE—representing not just the faith of the early settlers, but the Judeo-Christian ethic –love, tolerance and the moral footing of our society and its laws. It should be understood and honored as such—*not* symbolically rejected and stricken from the seal.

Let history and reverence for our founders stand. If someday a better, more inspiring seal is proposed, this one may be retired with the dignity and respect it deserves.

This is the wrong change at the wrong time. It makes the town more divided than diverse!



SAMPLE BALLOT
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS
MAY 24, 2022

Michael Bushnell
 TOWN CLERK

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this: ●
 B. Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office.
 C. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate's name and address on the line provided and completely fill in the OVAL.

NOT FOR VOTING

BOARD OF ASSESSORS For Three Years DONALD R. BLACK 573 Longley Road (Write-in) Vote for NOT More than ONE	COMMISSIONER OF TRUST FUNDS For Three Years RACHAEL E. BIELECKI 24 Britt Lane (Write-in) Vote for NOT More than ONE	GROTON SEWER COMMISSION For Three Years JAMES L. GMEINER 398 Longley Road (Write-in) Vote for NOT More than ONE
BOARD OF HEALTH For Three Years ROBERT J. FLEISCHER 119 Nashua Road (Write-in) Vote for NOT More than ONE	GROTON ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMISSION For Three Years RODNEY R. HERSH 8 Bridge Street ANDREW H. SCOTT 286 Boston Road (Write-in) Vote for NOT More than ONE	TRUSTEES OF THE GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY For Three Years NANCY FOLEY WILDER 33 Wortham Drive MARK W. GERATH 45 West Street (Write-in) Vote for NOT More than TWO
BOARD OF HEALTH For One Year EVAN A. THACKABERRY 79 Skyfields Drive JOHN A. TRUESDELL, JR. 111 Wintergreen Lane (Write-in) Vote for NOT More than ONE	PARK COMMISSION For Three Years (Write-in) (Write-in) Vote for NOT More than TWO	GROTON WATER COMMISSION For Three Years GREG R. FISHBONE 95 Main Street (Write-in) Vote for NOT More than ONE
SELECT BOARD For Three Years JOSHUA DEGEN 409 Martins Pond Road JOHN F. REILLY 59 Flitchs Bridge Road GUY ALBERGHINI 215 Main Street MATTHEW F. PISANI 68 Pleasant Street (Write-in) (Write-in) Vote for NOT More than TWO	PARK COMMISSION For One Year (Write-in) PLANNING BOARD For Three Years GEORGE E. BARRINGER, JR. 50 Fox Run DAVID J. BONNETT 50 Bridge Street (Write-in) (Write-in) Vote for NOT More than TWO	GROTON - DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE For Three Years ROSANNA M. CASAVECCHIA 32 Castle Drive YASMEEN S. CHEEMA 225 Cherry Tree Lane PETRONELLA G. GUTTROMSON 196 Duck Pond Drive (Write-in) (Write-in) Vote for NOT More than TWO
BALLOT QUESTIONS		
QUESTION #1 Shall an Act passed by the General Court in the Year 2022, entitled "An Act Relative to the Charter and the Town Clerk in the Town of Groton" be accepted? YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>		
QUESTION #2 NON-BINDING REFERENDUM – Should the Seal of the Town of Groton be modified by removing the words "Holy Bible" from the image of the book in the center of the Seal, leaving the image of the book blank? YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>		

NOT TO BE USED FOR VOTING

**TOWN OF GROTON
COMMITTEE INTEREST FORM**

Town Government needs citizens who are willing to give time in the service of their community. If you are interested in serving, on a voluntary basis, on boards and committees within the Town, please complete this form and return to:

**TOWN OF GROTON
SELECT BOARD
173 MAIN STREET
GROTON, MA 01450-1237**

Date: _____

Name _____
First M.I. Last

Address _____

Mailing Address (if different) _____

Circle One GROTON, 01450 WEST GROTON, 01472

Telephone No. (home) _____ (cell) _____

Preferred e-mail Address _____

Occupation _____

Background _____

Town activities/issues, which interest you:

Specific committees or positions in which you are interested:

Town of Groton
Select Board
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

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