


## DECLARATION OF RECESS AND CONTINUANCE

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 39, §10A, I declare the Lynnfield Annual Town Meeting scheduled for May 27, 2020 recessed and continued, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020. In consultation with the Board of Selectmen and public safety officials, I have determined that a public safety emergency may prevent voters from attending the meeting on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

The nature of the emergency is the outbreak of the novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19"). In making this Declaration, I note that on March 10, 2020, Governor Charles D. Baker declared a state of emergency in the Commonwealth and prohibited gatherings of more than 250 people throughout Massachusetts. On March 15, 2020, the Governor reduced the number constituting a prohibited gathering to more than 25 people. Although the Governor's orders explicitly exempt municipal legislative bodies (in other words, town meetings), turnout for Lynnfield town meetings regularly exceeds 250 voters, and the exemption does not diminish the health risk to voters in attending the meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup>. In addition to consulting with the Selectmen, Emergency Management Director and Director of Health, I have reviewed guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Given the rapid spread of the disease, the present lack of containment, and the risk to vulnerable populations inherent in public gatherings, I conclude that delaying the Annual Town Meeting is in the best interest of the Town and its citizens.

M.G.L. Ch. 39, §10A mandates that the moderator "shall announce the declaration of recess and continuance as far in advance of the town meeting being continued as possible." It also requires that a town meeting recessed pursuant to this statute "shall be convened by the moderator not later than 30 days following the date and time of the moderator's original announcement of the declaration of recess and continuance." I therefore declare that the continued date of the Annual Town Meeting shall be June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, to convene at 9:30 A.M. at the Lynnfield High School. The meeting will be held outside and detailed logistics will follow. I intend to declare additional continuances of up to 30 days each as necessary to defer the meeting until it can be held safely. In considering further deferrals, I will continue to consult with the Board of Selectmen and others.

Given at Lynnfield at  
\_\_9\_\_ a.m. this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

  
Joe Markey  
Lynnfield Town Moderator

**A True Copy Attest**

  
Linda A. Emerson  
Town Clerk

