



WARRANT

Town of Leverett
FY 2026 Annual Town Meeting
Saturday, May 3, 2025
9:00 A.M. Leverett Elementary School

Franklin, SS.

To one of the Constables of Leverett:
Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of Leverett, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Elementary School, on Saturday the 3rd day of May in the year 2025, at 9:00 in the morning (9:00 A.M.), then and there to act on the following articles, namely:

Article One: To choose all necessary Town officers to serve for periods prescribed by law or Town bylaw, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Two: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds such sums of money as shall be necessary to meet Town expenses, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Three: To see if the Town will vote to set the salaries of elected officials as provided by MGL Chapter 41, Section 108, to be made effective from July 1, 2025 as presented in the budget, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Four: To see if the Town will vote to accept Mass General Laws Chapter 41, Section 108P, Additional Compensation for Town Treasurer, and vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 for the Town Treasurer's stipend, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Five: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$75,000 from the Stabilization Account to purchase and equip a new police cruiser, or take any action relative thereto.

Needs 2/3 vote to pass

Article Six: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$250,000 from the Stabilization Account to complete repairs to the sprinkler system in the Leverett Elementary School, or take any action relative thereto.

Needs 2/3 vote to pass

Article Seven: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$3,200 from the Free Cash Account to purchase and equip a new copier for the Public Safety Complex, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Eight: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$9,450 from the Free Cash Account to rebuild the walkways and handrail at the Town hall, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Nine: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$1,000 from the Free Cash Account to pay for heat at the Field Building located at 1 Shutesbury Road, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Ten: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$185,548 from the Free Cash Account to the School Choice Account to correct an accounting error made in FY 2024, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Eleven: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$19,901 from the Free Cash Account to the After School Account to correct an accounting error made in FY 2020-22, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twelve: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$25,000 from the Free Cash Account to pay for extraordinary legal expenses incurred by the town, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Thirteen: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$1,486 from the Free Cash Account to pay some FY 24 electricity and phone invoices for the Town Hall as bills of prior year.

Need 4/5 vote to pass

Article Fourteen: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$83,000 from the Free Cash Account into the Stabilization Account to fund the Capital Plan, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Fifteen: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Free Cash Account the sum of \$11,547, which is the FY 24 total received from Medicaid for Special Education Cost at Leverett Elementary School as follows: \$9,547 to the OPEB trust account and \$2,000 to the FY 2025 operating budget of the Elementary School to cover expenses incurred for Medicaid reporting, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Sixteen: To see if the Town will vote the following changes to the Zoning bylaws, or take any action relative thereto:

Article VI: Definitions

From:

Kennel shall mean one pack or collection of dogs on a single premises, whether maintained for breeding, boarding, sale, training, hunting, or other purposes, and including any shop where dogs are on sale, and also including every pack or collection of more than three (3) dogs, three months old or older, owned or kept by a person on a single premises regardless of the purposes for which they are maintained or kept.

To:

Kennel shall mean a pack or collection of dogs on a single premises, including a commercial boarding or training kennel, commercial breeder kennel, domestic charitable corporation kennel, personal kennel or veterinary kennel.

Add to accessory Use Section

2249. Personal Kennels are allowable in all districts as an accessory use.

Needs 2/3 vote to pass

Article Seventeen: To see if the Town will vote the following changes to the Zoning bylaws, or take any action relative thereto:

Article VI: Definitions

~~Mobile Home shall mean a structure transportable in one or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis and designed to be used as a dwelling, with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities, but not including recreational vehicles or travel trailers.~~

2200 Use regulations

Change: "One-family dwelling incl. mobile homes" to "Dwelling Single Family, shall include manufactured homes"

Needs 2/3 vote to pass

Article Eighteen: To see if the Town will vote the following changes to the Zoning bylaws, or take any action relative thereto:

4970 Ground-Mounted Solar Electric

Small-scale (less than 1,750 square feet of panels) ground or building-mounted solar electric installations which are an accessory structure to an existing residential or non-residential use do not need to comply with this section but require a building permit and must comply with the other provisions of Leverett's zoning bylaws such as setback requirements. ~~, such small-scale ground-mounted solar electric installations shall be subject to Site Plan Review if in excess of 9 feet in height and not in excess of 20 feet in height and shall require a special permit if greater than 20 feet in height and shall not exceed 35 feet in height.~~

Needs 2/3 vote to pass

Article Nineteen: To see if the Town will vote to reserve the following from FY 2026 Community Preservation Annual Fund revenues: \$26,000 (estimated) for open space purposes (excluding recreational purposes); \$26,000 (estimated) for historic resources; \$26,000 (estimated) for community housing; and \$182,000 (estimated) to the FY 2026 Community Preservation Fund Budgeted Reserve, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$4,500 from FY 2026 Community Preservation Annual Fund revenues for administrative and operating expenses, including legal expenses, of the Leverett Community Preservation Committee, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty-One: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$374,529 from the Community Preservation Fund Unreserved Balance to provide funds for the Leverett Library to construct a multi-use accessible Pocket Park, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty-Two: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$8,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Balance reserved for Historic Preservation to provide funds to the Town of Leverett to restore the 1848 cabinet containing the Town's official set of Weight and Measures thus allowing the historic set to be displayed for public view, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty-Three: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$265,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Unreserved Balance to provide funds for the Town of Leverett to restore and improve the discontinued town-owned section of Rattlesnake Gutter Road to preserve it as a recreational trail use area, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty-Four: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$24,500, with \$5,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Balance reserved for Historic Preservation and \$19,500 from the Community Preservation Fund Unreserved Balance to provide funds for the Leverett Historical Commission to map the archeological remains of the Graves Ironworks located on Leverett Conservation land downstream from the Slarrow Mill, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty-Five: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$176,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Unreserved Balance to provide funds to contribute to the renovation of the Amherst Regional High School Track, interior field and surrounding athletic fields, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty-Six: To see if the Town will vote to recommend to the Selectboard to resurface the length of Dudleyville Road with pavement in any form, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Twenty-Seven: To see if the Town will vote to accept the gift of an approximately 146.3-acre woodlot, known as the Two Brothers Woodlot and known as Assessors Map 2, Parcel 111 consisting of 35 acres more or less, Map 2, Parcel 120, consisting of 22 acres more or less, and Map 2, Parcel 119 consisting of 89.3 acres more or less; said land to be owned by the Town and managed and controlled by the Selectboard, and that the Selectboard be authorized to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary on behalf of the Town of Leverett to effect said land acceptance. Also to accept MGL Chapter 45, Section 21, for the creation of a Town Forest Committee to manage and care for the new town forest. The Committee, composed of three members which are to be appointed by the Selectboard, shall serve without compensation, each member serving for three-year terms with staggered length of terms for the initial appointments. The Town Forest Committee shall report annually in writing to the Selectboard, or take any action relative thereto.

Needs 2/3 vote to pass

Article Twenty-Eight: To see if the Town will vote to alter the required Town Meeting warrant posting places by adding the Leverett Transfer Station and the Leverett Library to the list of required posting places, or take any action relative thereto

Article Twenty-Nine: To see if the Town will vote to adopt and enact the amendments to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) Charter, said amendment(s) having been proposed by a two-thirds majority of the weighted vote of the full membership of the FRCOG Council and a majority vote of the FRCOG Executive Committee, with said amendment(s) taking full effect immediately upon adoption by two-thirds of the member towns unless a later effective date is otherwise specified; or take any action relative thereto.

Needs 2/3 vote to pass

Article Thirty: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Leverett Departmental Revolving Funds Bylaw to authorize a revolving account in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½ to establish a Leverett Fire/EMS Public Education account for fees and donations collected from participants of public education and community outreach programs, including but not limited to EMS classes (CPR and AED, Emergency Medical Responder, First Aid), fire safety training, and other related educational programs; such funds to be under the authority of the Fire Chief. Monies from the fund will be used to pay for expenses associated with public education and community outreach programs conducted by the Leverett Fire/EMS, including, but not limited to, training and training materials, course materials, handouts, and certification cards, instructor pay, and any other related program expenses. Expenditures from the fund shall not exceed the amount of \$5,000 in Fiscal Year 2026, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Thirty-One: To see if the Town will vote to reauthorize the following spending limits for the revolving funds for certain town departments under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44 Section 53E ½ and the Town of Leverett Departmental Revolving Funds Bylaw adopted on 4/29/2017 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, or take any action relative thereto:

Revolving Fund	Revenue Source	Use	Restrictions or Conditions on Expenditures
Library	Fees for copying and printing	Copier and printer expenses	Spending limit of \$1,000
Library	Fines	Purchase books, audios & videos	Spending limit of \$3,000
Town Grounds Maintenance	Sale of plants, donations	Maintain town gardens & landscape town property	Spending limit of \$1,000
Fire Inspections	Inspections	Fire Inspectors and fire inspection expenses	Spending limit of \$2,500
Home Composting Program	Sale of compost bins and donations	Home composting bin distribution program expenses	Spending limit of \$1,000
Council on Aging	Fees and Donations	Costs associated with programs sponsored by the Council on Aging	Spending limit of \$5,000

Article Thirty-Two: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$10,000 from Account #712 for the Fiber Optic Network construction to the town debt principal account, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Thirty-Three: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$612.57 from Bond Premiums Reserved to the Town Debt Payment, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Thirty-Four: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$700 from Bond Premiums Reserved for the School Debt Payment, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Thirty-Five: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to enter into contracts with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for construction and/or maintenance of highways or other permissible expenditures from the Transportation Bond monies (Chapter 90) and authorize the Selectboard to accept any monies from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for highway construction and/or maintenance related work, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Thirty-Six: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during Fiscal Year 2025 as permitted by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53F, or take any action relative thereto.

Article Thirty-Seven: To see if the Town will vote to allow the Selectboard to apply for, accept and expend state, federal and other grants, which do not require a town appropriation, or take any other action relative thereto.

And you are hereby directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copies thereof on the Post Office, in the Town Hall and Congregational Church at Leverett, the Baptist Church at North Leverett and the Village Co-op at Moores Corner, seven days at least before the day of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 18th day of April, 2025.

SELECTBOARD OF LEVERETT

Thomas Hankinson, Chair

Patricia Duffy

Jed Proujansky

A true copy I attest:

Lisa Stratford, Town Clerk

I have served this Warrant as directed therein:

Date: _____ Constable: _____

The Town of Leverett does not discriminate based on disability and is committed to hosting accessible meetings. To request a reasonable accommodation to attend Town Meeting, please contact the municipal ADA Coordinator, Marjorie McGinnis at townadministrator@leverett.ma.us or 413-548-9699.