



Measure #: 2026-059

TOWN COUNCIL MEASURE SUBMITTAL

Date: 2/23/2026

Submitted By: Town Manager

Telephone #: 508-699-0100

MEASURE DESCRIPTION:

Authorize police staffing at all polling places and delegate deployment to the Chief of Police. This authorization shall apply to all future elections unless amended or rescinded by the Town Council.

Signed: _____

Digitally signed by Michael D. Borg
DN: cn=Michael D. Borg, o=North Attleborough,
email=mborg@nattleboro.com, c=US
Reason: I am the author of this document
Date: 2026.02.18 16:35:10 -05'00'

PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION:

The Commonwealth's election reform law, Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2022 ("VOTES Act"), amended M.G.L. c. 54, §72 to require that the governing body of a municipality detail a sufficient number of police officers or constables to each polling place for every election in order to preserve order, protect election officials, and enforce election laws.

Historically, the assignment of police officers to polling locations in North Attleborough has been performed by the Police Department without issue. This measure establishes formal compliance with the amended statute while preserving the Town's longstanding operational practice by authorizing the Chief of Police to determine staffing levels and deployment in consultation with the Town Clerk and election officials.

Adoption of a standing authorization eliminates the need for repeated Council action prior to each election, ensures continuity of election security operations, and provides clear legal authority for the Police Department to detail officers for all municipal, state, federal, and special elections held in the Town.

This measure supports the orderly conduct of elections, protects election workers and voters, and ensures the Town meets its statutory obligations while maintaining efficient and professional public safety operations.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

ATTACHMENTS: Letter to President of the Town Council Justin Pare'

REFER TO SUB-COMMITTEE: N/A



TOWN OF NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS
Board of Election Commissioners
43 South Washington Street
North Attleborough, MA 02760-1642
(508) 699-0106

Mr. Justin Paré, President
North Attleborough Town Council
43 S. Washington St.
North Attleborough, MA 02760

Dear Justin,

The election reform law titled "The VOTES Act", which was signed into law in June 2022, made a change to the assignment of police officers at polling places. In the past, this was always handled by the Chief of Police. The assignment of police officers at polling places now requires a vote of the Town Council.

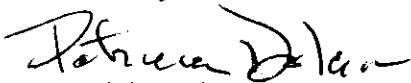
Section 13 of the VOTES act amends ch 54, s 72, which now reads:

Section 72. "The select Board, Board of selectmen, Town Council or city council of each city and town, in consultation with its election officers and registrars, shall detail a sufficient number of police officers or constables for each building that contains the polling place for 1 or more precincts at every election therein to preserve order and to protect the election officers and supervisors from any interference with their duties and to aid in enforcing the laws relating to elections."

In North Attleborough the Police Department has always provided the coverage for each election and we have had no issues. We recommend that the Town Council vote as follows, which leaves the assignment of officers at elections with the Chief of Police:

"The North Attleborough Town Council delegates the authority given to them in Chapter 92, section 72 of the Acts of 2022 to detail a sufficient number of police officers or constables for each building that contains the polling places for one or more precincts at every election therein to preserve order and to protect the election officers and supervisors from interference with their duties and to aid in enforcing the laws relating to elections to the Chief of Police."

Sincerely,


Patricia Dolan
Elections Coordinator

cc: Michael Borg, Town Manager