



TOWN OF TRURO

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 29, 2023

Town Meeting Votes to Continue Special Town Meeting to May 4, 2024 In Light of Safety Concerns Due to Unprecedented Voter Turnout

The November 28, 2023 Special Town Meeting opened, only to immediately continue the meeting by a majority vote of the town meeting body, in light of safety concerns related to building capacity of the Truro Central School which would have resulted in the exclusion of Truro voters. Capacity limits were reached due to an unprecedented voter turnout.

The town anticipated an increase in registered voters and arranged for additional rooms to accommodate residents, but the participation level ultimately exceeded the capacity of 523 people. Additionally, there were approximately 200 residents waiting outside to enter. Audio was provided in the cafeteria and library. Video was not provided as feedback from attendees of the spring Annual Town Meeting was that the delay resulting from live-streaming the broadcast of the meeting created confusion for voters and did not allow timely participation of voters in overflow areas.

"The voter turnout yesterday at our Special Town Meeting is exciting. Seeing that our voters are coming out in droves to participate shows that residents are passionate about our town and want to share their perspectives," Town Manager Darrin Tangeman said. "It demonstrates the importance of the work that the Select Board, staff, committees and citizens are doing. I would like to acknowledge and extend my gratitude to the residents of Truro for your unprecedented participation."

The Special Town Meeting was continued until May 4, 2024 at 10:00 am, pursuant to *G.L. c.39, §10*. The town is in the process of identifying an outdoor location in Truro. Currently, the Town of Truro Charter does not allow for Town Meeting to take place outside of Truro. The town will pursue a special act, called a Governor's Bill, per Section 8 of the Home Rule Amendment to the Massachusetts Constitution, to give the town flexibility to hold the Town Meeting elsewhere that provides for increased capacity. Additionally, the town expects a larger space will reduce the need for auxiliary audio/video setup. By continuing (rather than dissolving) the meeting, as proposed in both the passing motion to move the meeting to May 4th and an earlier motion to move the meeting to February, the warrant will remain intact, allowing the voters to retain the opportunity to vote on the important work of the town's boards, committees, staff, and citizens.

While another postponement is frustrating and undesirable to everyone, the level of participation at this meeting is exciting and we hope it continues to May 4th and beyond. The town will continue to

provide updates and ensure transparency throughout the meeting preparation process. Thank you again for your continued patience and active participation in local government. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have questions or feedback.

Contact

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**Edited to correct incorrect year in title.*