

Warrant Article Text

ARTICLE

RESOLUTION/CHANGE STATE FLAG & SEAL

To see if the Town will vote a Resolution in Support of Changing the State Flag & Seal of Massachusetts:

WHEREAS the history of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is replete with instances of conflict between European Colonists and the Native Nations of the region, who first extended the hand of friendship to the Colonist on their shores in 1620, and helped them survive starvation during the settlers' first winters on their land;

WHEREAS members of the Native Nation for whom the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is named were ambushed and killed by Myles Standish, first commander of the Plymouth Colony, at Wessagusett (now Weymouth) in April of 1623, barely two years after the Pilgrims arrived;

WHEREAS the Colonial broadsword held by a white hand above the head of the Indigenous person on the Massachusetts Flag and Seal is modeled after Myles Standish's own broadsword, borrowed for that purpose from Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth by the illustrator Edmund Garrett in 1884;

WHEREAS the belt binding the Native's cloak on the Flag and Seal is modeled after a belt for my Metacomet, known to the English as King Philip, who was among the Indigenous leaders that resorted to a mutually destructive war in 1675-76 in defense of Native lands against Colonial encroachment;

WHEREAS the proportions of the body of the Indigenous person on the Flag and Seal were taken from the skeleton of an Indigenous person unearthed in Winthrop, the bow modeled after a bow taken from an Indigenous man shot and killed by a colonist in Sudbury in 1665, and the facial features taken from a photograph of an Ojibwe chief from Great Falls, Montana, considered by the illustrator to be a "fine specimen of an Indian," though not from Massachusetts;

WHEREAS the history of relations between Massachusetts since Colonial times and the Native Nations who continue to live within its borders includes the forced internment of thousands of so-called "praying Indians" on Deer Island, in Boston Harbor, where they died by the hundreds of exposure in the winter of 1675, the enslavement of Indigenous people in Boston, Bermuda, and the Caribbean Islands, the offering of 40 pounds sterling as bounty for the scalps of indigenous men, women and children in Massachusetts beginning in 1686, increased to 100 pounds sterling for the scalps of Indigenous adult males by 1722, half that amount for Indigenous women and children;

WHEREAS Indigenous people were legally prohibited from even stepping foot into Boston from 1675 until 2004, when that Colonial law was finally repealed;

WHEREAS the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Colonists at Plymouth Plantation, which gave rise to the long chain of genocidal wars and deliberate government policies of cultural destruction against Native Nations of this continent, occurred in the year 2020,

WHEREAS the land area now known as the Town of Arlington, shares a rich Native history with modern tribal Nations such as the Massachusetts, who have inhabited this area long before the first colonial settlers arrived, in 1635;

(Inserted at the request of the Chadi Salamoun and ten registered voters)

To see if the Town will vote to establish a study group to evaluation current civic participation practices in Arlington, best practices in other communities, and findings of the Community Equity Audit, and to develop strategies that will remove barriers and encourage residents to volunteer and/or run for elected office. The goal of this study group would be to make recommendations to the Select Board, Town Manager, Town Meeting, Town Appointing bodies and the School Committee on topics that include, but are not limited to:

- at the next Annual Town Meeting; or take any action related thereto.

To see if the Town will vote to waive the age restriction of 32 years old to apply and become an Arlington Police Officer; or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of James M. Looney and ten registered voters)

ARTICLE**SPECIAL LEGISLATION/REPEAL MBTA PROHIBITION**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize and request the Select Board to file Home Rule Legislation or other Special Legislation to repeal Chapter 439 of the Acts of 1976 "An Act Prohibiting the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority for locating a mass transportation facility within a certain distance of the Arlington Catholic High School," or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of Paul Schlichtman and ten registered voters)

ARTICLE**RESOLUTION/IMPROVE MBTA SERVICE**

To see if the Town will vote to endorse a resolution calling for improvements to service provided to the Town of Arlington by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority; or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of Paul Schlichtman and ten registered voters)

ARTICLE**BYLAW****AMENDMENT/MEDICAL****ANTI-****DISCRIMINATION BYLAW**

To see if the Town will vote to create Title I, Article 24 of the town bylaws stating "People Shall not be denied access to facilities or service based on medical status;" or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of Mark Kaepplein and ten registered voters)

ARTICLE**RESOLUTION/MY BODY MY CHOICE**

To see if the Town will vote to resolve that People have a natural and innate authority over their own body; or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of Mark Kaepplein and ten registered voters)