

BROOKLINE TOWN MEETING

NEWSLETTER: Winter 2023 Special Town Meeting Highlights

by **Jesse Hefter** (Town Meeting Member - Precinct 14)
January 12, 2023

A Special **Winter Town Meeting** took place on the evening of January 10, 2023. This Newsletter provides you with a high-level summary of what was discussed and how your elected representatives voted.

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Adoption of a “Specialized Municipal Opt-In” Building Code (Article 1)

Approved (Yes-202; No- 19; Abstain-8)

Adopt the Commonwealth's new specialized municipal opt-in stretch energy code. This Building Code is a focused set of additional building requirements that go beyond the recent update to the Stretch Energy Code, which Brookline had already adopted. These additional requirements increase the energy efficiency of new buildings, incentivize all-electric buildings and in the context of mixed-fuel buildings require pre-wiring for all-electric operation and solar panels where feasible. This is the first time the stretch energy code will apply to buildings smaller than 100,000 sq. ft. and expands applicability to include alterations and additions as well. **Brookline is the first municipality in the State** to adopt this Code as it continues to work hard to combat climate change at the local level.

Ballot Information to Voters (Article 2)

Approved (Yes-223; No-1; Abstain-4)

Provide residents with objective, balanced information about local ballot questions. In advance of Town elections, voter households (about 25,000 in Brookline) would receive a mailing that consists of a summary prepared by Town Counsel’s office of each upcoming Ballot Question as well as a one sentence statement describing the effect of a “yes” or “no” vote. In addition, Town Counsel’s office is required to solicit, review, and approve short written statements for and against each Ballot Question.

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