

In response to the State of Emergency and concerns about COVID-19 and its implications on election administration, the Governor signed a law authorizing the Board of Selectmen to vote to **postpone** the local election which was scheduled for May 5, 2020. A copy of the law may be viewed [Website Link](#). At its meeting on April 14, 2020, the Board of Selectmen voted to reschedule the election to **June 23, 2020**. *Selectman Mary Bruce made a motion, seconded by Selectman Alan Slavin that, in accordance with Senate Bill 2608, the Town of Wareham postpone the Town election scheduled for May 5, 2020, to June 23, 2020. Roll call: Vote: Motion approved 4-0-1. Peter Teitelbaum recused himself because he is on the ballot.*

The law requires the Town to post **public notice** of the postponed election and rescheduled election date on its website and to broadly **publicize** the postponement and rescheduling. Wareham is posting this notice on the website and will provide additional notice through the Reverse 911 notification system and issue a press release to The Wareham Weekly.

The law establishes a **new voter registration deadline** of 8:00 p.m. on the 10th day before the rescheduled election. The rescheduled election date is **June 23, 2020**, therefore, the 10th day before the rescheduled election is **Friday June 12, 2020**.

The law authorizes the Town to **reuse election materials**. The Town will be using the official and absentee ballots used for the May 5, 2020 election. As required by the law a sample of the ballot may be viewed at [Website Link](#).

In light of widespread practice of **social distancing**, the law provides for two alternatives to voting in person:

- First, the law allows any person taking precaution related to COVID-19 to vote by **absentee ballot**. All applications for an absentee ballot must be received by the Town Clerk before noon on **Monday June 22, 2020**, the last business day before the election. Any person may apply for an absentee ballot by sending a signed request to the Town Clerk's office or filling out the absentee ballot application available [Website Link](#).
- Second, the law provides for **early voting by mail**. All applications for early voting ballots must be received before noon on **Monday June 22, 2020**, the last business day before the election. Any person may obtain an early voting ballot by sending a signed request to the Town Clerk's office or by filling out and returning the early voting application available [Website Link](#). Your early voting ballot must be received by the Town Clerk before the polls close 8:00 PM on election day.

The law does **NOT** make any other changes to elections or the election process. It does **NOT**, for example, change the number of signatures or the submission deadline for candidates for office.