

**TOWN of ROCKPORT  
WARRANT for  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

Saturday, April 11, 2026  
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Essex, ss. To: One of the Constables of the Town of Rockport, Massachusetts in  
said County of Essex in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

GREETINGS: In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town qualified to vote in Town affairs to meet and assemble at the Rockport High School campus at 24 Jerden's Lane in said Rockport on Saturday, the eleventh day of April, 2026 A.D., at 8:30 in the morning, then and there to act on the following articles, to wit:

ARTICLES: Fiscal Year 2026

ARTICLE I. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from available funds sums of money to be expended by various Town Departments to balance the FY26 budget; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Town Accountant) (requires majority vote)*

ARTICLE II. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to pay unpaid bills and/or payroll of previous years; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Town Accountant) (requires 4/5 vote)*

ARTICLES: Fiscal Year 2027

ARTICLE 1. To choose an agent for the various trust funds of the Town and to choose all other necessary Town Officers in such a manner as the Town may direct; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Select Board) (requires majority vote)*

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to pay unpaid bills and/or payroll of previous years; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Town Accountant) (requires 4/5 vote)*

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to rescind, amend, or revise any one or more of the authorizations previously given to borrow funds for municipal purposes, excluding always, any and all authorizations that have been executed by a borrowing; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Town Treasurer) (requires majority vote)*

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to amend or revise certain compensation schedules as recommended by the Select Board and on file in the Town Clerk's Office, which are incorporated herein

by reference, namely:

- A. Compensation Schedules A, B, D and H for salaried employees; and
- B. Compensation Schedule C for elected officials;

or act on anything relative thereto. *(Select Board) (requires majority vote)*

- ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, sums of money for any or all Town expenses and purposes, including, without limiting the foregoing, debt and interest, out-of-state travel, wages and salaries, operation of the Town's departments and offices, and provide for a reserve fund, all for the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, inclusive; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Finance Committee) (requires majority vote)*
- 5A. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, sums of money for any and all Town expenses and purposes including, without limiting the foregoing, debt and interest, out-of-state travel, wages and salaries, operation of the Town's Water Enterprise and provide for a reserve fund, all for the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, inclusive; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Finance Committee) (requires majority vote)*
- 5B. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, sums of money for any and all Town expenses and purposes including, without limiting the foregoing, debt and interest, out-of-state travel, wages and salaries, operation of the Town's Sewer Enterprise and provide for a reserve fund, all for the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, inclusive; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Finance Committee) (requires majority vote)*
- 5C. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from the FY2027 Estimated Annual Revenue of the Community Preservation Fund a sum of money for any and all necessary and proper expenses of the Community Preservation Committee, all for the Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, inclusive; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Finance Committee) (requires majority vote)*

- ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate for Capital Outlay Items, such sums of money as set forth in the schedule prepared by the Finance Committee, or any other sum or sums, a copy of which schedule is on file with the Town Clerk and incorporated herein by reference, and to determine whether such sums will be raised by fees, taxation, transferred from available funds, provided

by borrowing, or by any combination of the foregoing; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Finance Committee) (requires 2/3 vote if funded with borrowing)*

6A. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate for Capital Outlay Items for the Water Enterprise, sums of money as set forth in the schedule prepared by the Finance Committee, or any other sum or sums, a copy of which schedule is on file with the Town Clerk and incorporated herein by reference, and to determine whether such sums will be raised by fees, taxation, transferred from available funds, provided by borrowing, or by any combination of the foregoing; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Finance Committee) (requires 2/3 vote if funded with borrowing)*

6B. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate for Capital Outlay Items for the Sewer Enterprise, sums of money as set forth in the schedule prepared by the Finance Committee, or any other sum or sums, a copy of which schedule is on file with the Town Clerk and incorporated herein by reference, and to determine whether such sums will be raised by fees, taxation, transferred from available funds, provided by borrowing, or by any combination of the foregoing; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Finance Committee) (requires 2/3 vote if funded with borrowing)*

ARTICLES:            Lottery System

ARTICLE A. To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of its officers, boards, departments, committees and commissions, as printed in the 2025 Annual Town Report or as otherwise submitted to Town Meeting; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Town Moderator) (requires majority vote)*

ARTICLE B. To see if the Town will vote to expend a sum of money allocated to the Town under the provisions of M.G.L. Ch. 90 or otherwise, so-called "Chapter 90 monies"; or act on anything relative thereto. *(DPW Commissioners) (requires majority vote)*

ARTICLE C. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate and transfer from available funds, including Free Cash, the following sums, or any other sum, as a grant to the following charitable organizations

Action, Inc.	\$4,000
HAWC	\$3,000
Senior Care	\$3,100
Open Door	\$5,000

; or act on anything relative thereto. *(Select Board) (requires majority vote)*

ARTICLE D. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds, including Free Cash, the following sums of money to the following Stabilization Funds and Trusts to pay for future expenditures:

General Stabilization Fund	\$150,000
Capital Reserve Stabilization Fund	\$150,000
OPEB Trust Fund	\$100,000

; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Select Board*) (*requires majority vote*)

ARTICLE E. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or appropriate by transfer from available funds, including Free Cash, a sum of money for Assessor Revaluation Expenses; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Select Board*) (*requires majority vote*)

ARTICLE F. To see if the Town will vote to accept MGL Chapter 59, Sec 5, Clause Thirty-Seventh A, allowing a real estate tax exemption for qualifying blind persons who own and occupy property, or take any action relative thereto. (*Board of Assessors*) (*requires majority vote*)

ARTICLE G. To see if the Town will vote to accept MGL Chapter 59, Sec 5, Clause Forty-First C to increase the real estate exemption amount for certain qualifying seniors from \$500 to \$1000, reduce the eligibility age from 70 to 65, and, if real property is occupied by the taxpayer as their domicile, to exclude from the determination of the whole estate the value of up to three dwelling units, or take any action relative thereto. (*Board of Assessors*) (*requires majority vote*)

ARTICLE H. To see if the Town will vote pursuant to MGL Chapter 59, Sec 5, Clause Forty-first A (2), which allows qualifying seniors to enter into a tax deferral and recovery agreement, to increase the allowable income limit to that applicable under the "circuit breaker" state tax credit established by MGL Chapter 62, Section 6(k), or take any other action relative thereto. (*Board of Assessors*) (*requires majority vote*)

ARTICLE I. To see if the Town will vote to accept MGL Chapter 59, Sec 5, Clause Twenty-Second I which authorizes an annual increase in the amount of the real estate tax exemption granted under MGL Chapter 59, Section 5, Clauses Twenty-Second through Twenty-Second F, inclusive, by the percentage increase in the US Dept of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous year as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, or take any other action relative thereto. (*Board of Assessors*) (*requires majority vote*)

ARTICLE J. To see if the Town will vote to accept as public ways the roadways known as Highview Road and Briny Way, as heretofore laid out by the Select Board and shown on a plan entitled "Highview Road, Road and Utilities Plan in Rockport Prepared for Richard H. Poole," dated

February 19, 1978, and on a plan entitled "As Built Plan, Plan and Profile Highview Road Rockport, Mass. Property of Richard H. Poole, dated June 22, 1981, both prepared by Matt A. Hautala Engineer & Surveyor, copies of which are on file with the Town Clerk, and to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain, easements in Highview Road and Briny Way for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Rockport and any drainage, access, utility and/or other easements related thereto; or take any other action relative thereto. (*Select Board*) (*requires majority vote*)

ARTICLE K. To see if the Town will vote to accept MGL Chapter 53, Sec 9A, establishing a deadline of 48 weekday hours prior to the filing deadline to obtain nomination papers for nomination to Town office, requiring candidates to provide a statement in writing containing their name, address, and office for which they intend to seek nomination, and limiting the number of blank nomination papers per candidate to the number required for nomination, times five, or take any other action relative thereto. (*Town Clerk*) (*requires majority vote*)

ARTICLE L. To see if the Town of Rockport will vote to accept the designation by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities of the Town of Rockport as a "Seasonal Community" in accordance with MGL Chapter 23B, Sec 32(b), which section was added by Chapter 150 of the Acts of 2024; or to take any other action thereto. (*Planning Board*) (*requires majority vote*)

ARTICLE M. To see if the Town of Rockport will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws, Code of By-laws Section 400-16, "Protected use accessory dwelling units", with text to be inserted shown in bold and text to be deleted shown in strikethrough, as follows:

Section 400-16. Protected use accessory dwelling units.

A. Definitions.

**BUILDING CODE** — The Massachusetts State Building Code, 780 CMR.

**COMMUTER RAIL STATION** — Any commuter rail station operated by a transit authority with year-round service, with trains departing at regular time intervals, rather than intermittent, seasonal, or event-based service.

**DESIGN STANDARDS** — Clear, measurable and objective provisions of zoning, or general ordinances or by-laws, which are made applicable to the exterior design of, and use of materials for, an ADU.

**DWELLING UNIT** — A single housing unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation.

**EOHLC** — The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities.

**FIRE CODE** — The Massachusetts State Fire Code, 527 CMR 1.00: Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code.

**GROSS FLOOR AREA** — The sum of the areas of all stories of the building of compliant ceiling height pursuant to the Building Code, including basements, lofts, and intermediate floored tiers, measured from the interior faces of exterior walls or from the center line of walls separating buildings or dwelling units, but excluding crawl spaces, garage parking areas, attics, enclosed porches and similar spaces. Where there are multiple principal dwellings on the lot, the GFA of the largest principal dwelling shall be used for determining the maximum size of a protected use ADU.

**HISTORIC DISTRICT** — A district in a municipality established pursuant to MGL c. 40C or other state law that is characterized by the historic or architectural significance of buildings, structures, and sites, and in which exterior changes to and the construction of buildings and structures are subject to regulations adopted by the municipality pursuant to MGL c. 40C or other state law.

**LOT** — An area of land with definite boundaries that is used, or available for use, as the site of a structure, or structures, regardless of whether the site conforms to requirements of zoning.

**MODULAR DWELLING UNIT** — A predesigned dwelling unit assembled and equipped with internal plumbing, electrical or similar systems prior to movement to the site where such dwelling unit is affixed to a foundation and connected to external utilities; or any portable structure with walls, a floor, and a roof, designed or used as a dwelling unit, transportable in one or more sections and affixed to a foundation and connected to external utilities.

**MUNICIPALITY** — Any city or town subject to the provisions of MGL c. 40A.

**PRINCIPAL DWELLING** — A structure, regardless of whether it, or the lot it is situated on, conforms to zoning, including use requirements and dimensional requirements, such as setbacks, bulk, and height, that contains at least one dwelling unit and is, or will be, located on the same lot as a protected use ADU.

**PROHIBITED REGULATION** — Zoning or general ordinances or by-laws, or municipal regulations that are prohibited pursuant to 760 CMR 71.03(2).

**PROTECTED USE ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT (ADU)** —

- (1) A self-contained housing unit, inclusive of sleeping, cooking and sanitary facilities, on the same lot as a principal dwelling, subject to otherwise applicable dimensional and parking requirements, that:
  - (a) Maintains a separate entrance, either directly from the outside or through an entry hall or corridor shared with the principal dwelling, sufficient to meet the requirements of the Building Code for safe egress;
  - (b) Is not larger in gross floor area than 1/2 the gross floor area of the principal dwelling or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller; and
  - (c) Is subject to such additional restrictions as may be imposed by a municipality, including, but not limited to, additional size restrictions,

and restrictions or prohibitions on short-term rentals as defined in MGL c. 64G, § 1; provided, however, that no municipality shall unreasonably restrict the creation or rental of an ADU that is not a short-term rental.

- (2) An attached or detached ADU that is located, or is proposed to be located, on a lot in a single-family residential zoning district and is protected by MGL c. 40A, § 3, provided that only one ADU on a lot may qualify as a protected use ADU. An ADU that is nonconforming to zoning shall still qualify as a protected use ADU if it otherwise meets this definition.

**SHORT-TERM RENTAL** — As defined in MGL c. 64G, § 1, an owner-occupied, tenant-occupied or non-owner-occupied property, including, but not limited to, an apartment, house, cottage, condominium or a furnished accommodation that is not a hotel, motel, lodging house or bed-and-breakfast establishment, where at least one room or unit is rented to an occupant or sub occupant; and all accommodations are reserved in advance; provided, however, that a private owner-occupied property shall be considered a single unit if leased or rented as such.

**SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DWELLING** — A structure on a lot containing not more than one dwelling unit.

**SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICT** — Any zoning district where single-family residential dwellings are a permitted or an allowable use, including any zoning district where single family residential dwellings are allowed as-of-right or by special permit.

**SITE PLAN REVIEW** — A review process, as outlined in the Town of Rockport Zoning By-law, Article XIV, which involves review and imposition of terms and conditions on the appearance and layout of a proposed use of land or structures prior to the issuance of a building permit.

**SPECIAL PERMIT** — A permit issued by a municipality's special permit granting authority pursuant to MGL c. 40A, § 9.

**TRANSIT AUTHORITY** — The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority established by MGL c. 161A, § 2, or other local or regional transit authority established pursuant to MGL c. 161B, § 3, or MGL c. 161B, § 14.

**TRANSIT STATION** — A commuter rail station.

**UNREASONABLE REGULATION** — Zoning or general ordinances or by-laws, or municipal regulations that are unreasonable pursuant to 760 CMR 71.03(3).

**ZONING DISTRICT** — A geographic area within a municipality which, pursuant to zoning, is subject to use and structure requirements that are uniform within the area.

**ZONING ORDINANCES AND BY-LAWS** — Including base, underlying, and overlay zoning, adopted by cities and towns to regulate the use of land, buildings and structures to the full extent of the independent constitutional powers of cities and towns to protect the health, safety and general welfare of their present and future inhabitants.

B. Regulation of protected use ADUs in single-family residential zoning districts.

(1) Protected use ADUs applicability:

- (a) Protected use ADUs are deemed to be either within or detached from an existing or new single-family, duplex or multifamily dwelling.
- (b) Protected Use ADUs within an existing or new single-family, duplex or multifamily dwelling may be authorized by the Building Inspector with the issuance of a building permit when the conditions and requirements have been met.
- (c) Protected use ADUs in an accessory structure detached from an existing or new single-family, duplex or multifamily dwelling may be authorized by the Building Inspector with the issuance of a building permit when the conditions and requirements have been met.

(2) General requirements:

- (a) The Protected use ADU shall be a complete, separate dwelling unit that contains both permanent kitchen and bathroom and has its own means of egress.
- (b) No more than one protected use ADU may be created on a lot. There shall be no more than two dwelling units on a single-family lot.
- (c) The total number of bedrooms in the primary dwelling and the protected use ADU combined may not exceed the capacity of the permitted septic system, per Title 5 requirements.
- (d) The existing house and the protected use ADU shall comply with all applicable health, safety, building and other applicable codes in effect at the time of the granting of the building permit, and of any special permit where applicable.
- (e) An attached or detached protected use ADU unit shall meet the setback requirements of an accessory structure, as well as other applicable dimensional controls, except by special permit from the Planning Board.
- (f) Utilities such as water, electric and gas necessary for the protected use ADU shall be extensions of the existing utilities serving the principal single-family dwelling.
- (g) Attached or detached protected use ADUs to be located within a historic district within the Town of Rockport shall be subject to the local Historical Commission design standards for the district for a single-family residential dwelling. Permissions shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- (h) One parking space shall be required for the protected use ADU ~~shall be required~~<sup>1</sup> where the property is more than one-half mile from the train station, with no parking requirement for a property being within one-half mile of the train station. Required parking spaces shall be located so that both the principal dwelling unit and the protected use

ADU shall have at least one parking space with direct and unimpeded access to the street without passing through a parking space designated to serve the other dwelling unit.

- (i) Short-term rentals shall be not be allowed for protected use ADUs, with the following provisions to be applied:
  - [1] Short-term rentals are prohibited in protected use ADUs and may not be advertised or promoted on any internet platforms typically associated with short-term rentals. **The minimum length of a lease for a Protected Use ADU shall be six months.**
  - [2] Before a certificate of occupancy is issued, the property owner of any protected use ADU shall register such property with the Building Inspector and provide written certification attesting that the protected ADU shall not be used for short-term rentals;
  - [3] To ensure continued compliance with the requirements of this section by the current as well as by any subsequent owners, prior to using or obtaining a certificate of occupancy for any protected use ADU, a notice in the form provided by the Building Inspector shall be recorded at the Essex South District Registry of Deeds. The notice shall contain the lot address, Assessor's Map and Lot number that a protected use ADU has been allowed on the lot and that a continued use of the protected use ADU requires compliance with this by-law, including without limitation that no protected use ADU may be used for short-term rental.
- (3) Design standards for attached protected use ADUs.
  - (a) An attached protected use ADU shall not change the appearance and purpose of the principal dwelling, except for the provision of an additional access or egress.
  - (b) An attached protected use ADU added to a single-family residence shall be within the dwelling unit or have a common wall and may have a common interior door with the dwelling unit.
  - (c) Prior to issuance of a building permit, a floor plan and elevations, drawn to scale, shall be submitted, showing the proposed interior and exterior changes to the building to demonstrate that the protected use ADU will not significantly alter the appearance of the ~~single-family~~ **principal** dwelling. *(Planning Board) (requires two-thirds vote)*

ARTICLE N. To see if the Town of Rockport will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws, Code of Bylaws Section 400-16, "Protected use accessory dwelling units", by inserting the bold text and deleting the strikethrough text, as follows:

Section 400-16. Protected use accessory dwelling units.

C. Definitions.

**BUILDING CODE** — The Massachusetts State Building Code, 780 CMR.

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  - (b) Is not larger in gross floor area than 1/2 the gross floor area of the principal dwelling or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller; and
  - (c) Is subject to such additional restrictions as may be imposed by a municipality, including, but not limited to, additional size restrictions, and restrictions or prohibitions on short-term rentals as defined in MGL c. 64G, § 1; provided, however, that no municipality shall unreasonably restrict the creation or rental of an ADU that is not a short-term rental.
- (2) An attached or detached ADU that is located, or is proposed to be located, on a lot in a single-family residential zoning district and is protected by MGL c. 40A, § 3, provided that only one ADU on a lot may qualify as a protected use ADU. An ADU that is nonconforming to zoning shall still qualify as a protected use ADU if it otherwise meets this definition.

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D. Regulation of protected use ADUs in single-family residential zoning districts.

(1) Protected use ADUs applicability:

- (a) Protected use ADUs are deemed to be either within or detached from an existing or new single-family, duplex or multifamily dwelling.
- (b) Protected Use ADUs within an existing or new single-family, duplex or multifamily dwelling may be authorized by the Building Inspector with the issuance of a building permit when the conditions and requirements have been met.
- (c) Protected use ADUs in an accessory structure detached from an existing or new single-family, duplex or multifamily dwelling may be authorized by the Building Inspector with the issuance of a building permit when the conditions and requirements have been met.

(2) General requirements:

- (a) The Protected use ADU shall be a complete, separate dwelling unit that contains both permanent kitchen and bathroom and has its own means of egress.
- (b) No more than one protected use ADU may be created on a lot. There shall be no more than two dwelling units on a single-family lot.
- (c) The total number of bedrooms in the primary dwelling and the protected use ADU combined may not exceed the capacity of the permitted septic system, per Title 5 requirements.
- (d) The existing house and the protected use ADU shall comply with all applicable health, safety, building and other applicable codes in effect at the time of the granting of the building permit, and of any special permit where applicable.

- (e) An attached or detached protected use ADU unit shall meet the setback requirements of an accessory structure, as well as other applicable dimensional controls, except by special permit from the Planning Board.
- (f) Utilities such as water, electric and gas necessary for the protected use ADU shall be extensions of the existing utilities serving the principal single-family dwelling. Attached or detached protected use ADUs to be located within a historic district within the Town of Rockport shall be subject to the local Historical Commission design standards for the district for a single-family residential dwelling. Permissions shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- (g) Attached or detached protected use ADUs to be located within a historic district within the Town of Rockport shall be subject to the local Historical Commission design standards for the district for a single-family residential dwelling. Permissions shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- (h) One parking space shall be required for the protected use ADU ~~shall be required~~<sup>1</sup> where the property is more than one-half mile from the train station, with no parking requirement for a property being within one-half mile of the train station. Required parking spaces shall be located so that both the principal dwelling unit and the protected use ADU shall have at least one parking space with direct and unimpeded access to the street without passing through a parking space designated to serve the other dwelling unit.
- (i) Short-term rentals shall be not be allowed for protected use ADUs, with the following provisions to be applied:
  - [1] Short-term rentals are prohibited in protected use ADUs and may not be advertised or promoted on any internet platforms typically associated with short-term rentals. **The length of a lease for a Protected Use ADU shall be 31 days, as stated in M.G.L. c. 64G.**
  - [2] Before a certificate of occupancy is issued, the property owner of any protected use ADU shall register such property with the Building Inspector and provide written certification attesting that the protected ADU shall not be used for short-term rentals;
  - [3] To ensure continued compliance with the requirements of this section by the current as well as by any subsequent owners, prior to using or obtaining a certificate of occupancy for any protected use ADU, a notice in the form provided by the Building Inspector shall be recorded at the Essex South District Registry of Deeds. The notice shall contain the lot address, Assessor's Map and Lot number that a protected use ADU has been allowed on the lot and that a continued use of the protected use ADU requires compliance with this by-law, including

without limitation that no protected use ADU may be used for short-term rental.

- (3) Design standards for attached protected use ADUs.
- (a) An attached protected use ADU shall not change the appearance and purpose of the principal dwelling, except for the provision of an additional access or egress.
  - (b) An attached protected use ADU added to a single-family residence shall be within the dwelling unit or have a common wall and may have a common interior door with the dwelling unit.
  - (c) Prior to issuance of a building permit, a floor plan and elevations, drawn to scale, shall be submitted, showing the proposed interior and exterior changes to the building to demonstrate that the protected use ADU will not significantly alter the appearance of the ~~single-family~~ **principal** dwelling. (*Planning Board*) (*requires two-thirds vote*)

ARTICLE O. To see if the Town will hear, receive and act upon the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Town Water Supply appointed pursuant to the vote of the 1980 Annual Town Meeting under Warrant Article 16 and extended by votes of successive Annual Town Meetings and extend the term of the Committee; or act on anything relative thereto. (*Town Moderator*) (*requires majority vote*)

ARTICLE P. A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING OUR U.S. CONSTITUTION AND THE SEPARATION OF POWERS, AND URGING CONGRESS TO EXERCISE ITS LEGISLATIVE BRANCH AUTHORITY AND OVERSIGHT POWERS TO PROVIDE A CHECK ON UNLAWFUL OR UNCONSTITUTIONAL ACTIONS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS, the U.S. Constitution is the basis for our democratic republic and civil society; and

WHEREAS, the first three articles of the U.S. Constitution establish three separate but co-equal branches of government and this separation of powers between the legislative, executive, and judicial branches was designed to ensure a system of checks and balances; and

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump and his Administration have shown a blatant disregard for the separation of powers by withholding Congressionally approved funds, dismantling Congressionally created departments and agencies, unilaterally imposing tariffs and duties, deploying military troops on American soil against civilian populations, attempting to deny birthright citizenship guaranteed by the Constitution, ordering investigations of political enemies and unlawfully replacing U.S. Attorneys who fail to carry out said orders, launching military operations against sovereign nations without Congressional consultation or approval, threatening military action against a fellow NATO member in violation of Congressionally approved treaties, and deploying armed federal agents to states without consent or coordination to carry out

unnecessarily broad and aggressive immigration enforcement actions that have resulted in the unlawful detention, injury, and death of U.S. citizens exercising their basic Constitutional rights; and

WHEREAS, in the judgment of this assembled Town Meeting, President Trump has repeatedly usurped legislative and judicial branch authority in direct violation of the separation of powers enshrined in our Constitution; and

WHEREAS, as James Madison wrote in Federalist Paper No. 47, “The accumulation of all powers legislative, executive, and judiciary in the same hands, whether of one, a few or many, and whether hereditary, self-appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny;” and so now therefore;

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That this duly assembled Town Meeting, as the legislative body of the Town of Rockport, Massachusetts, respectfully calls upon the Congress of the United States to exercise its legislative branch authority and oversight powers to provide a check on unlawful or unconstitutional actions by the President of the United States.


*(Non-Binding Citizen Petition) (majority vote)*

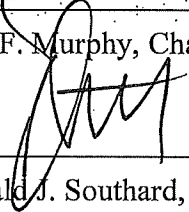
And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies of the same at each of the Post Offices, and in other public places in each village of the Town, seven days at least before the day of the holding of said ANNUAL TOWN MEETING.

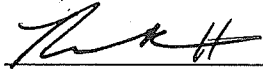
Hereof fail not and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, three days at least before Saturday, April 11, 2026.

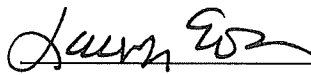
Given under our hands and seal of the Town this 24th day of March, 2026, A.D.

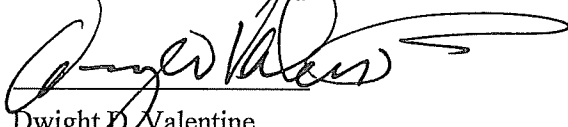
SELECT BOARD  
TOWN OF ROCKPORT

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul F. Murphy, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Donald J. Southard, Vice Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ross C. Brackett, Selectperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura F. Evans, Selectperson.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dwight D. Valentine,  
Selectperson

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_

Constable for the Town of Rockport