

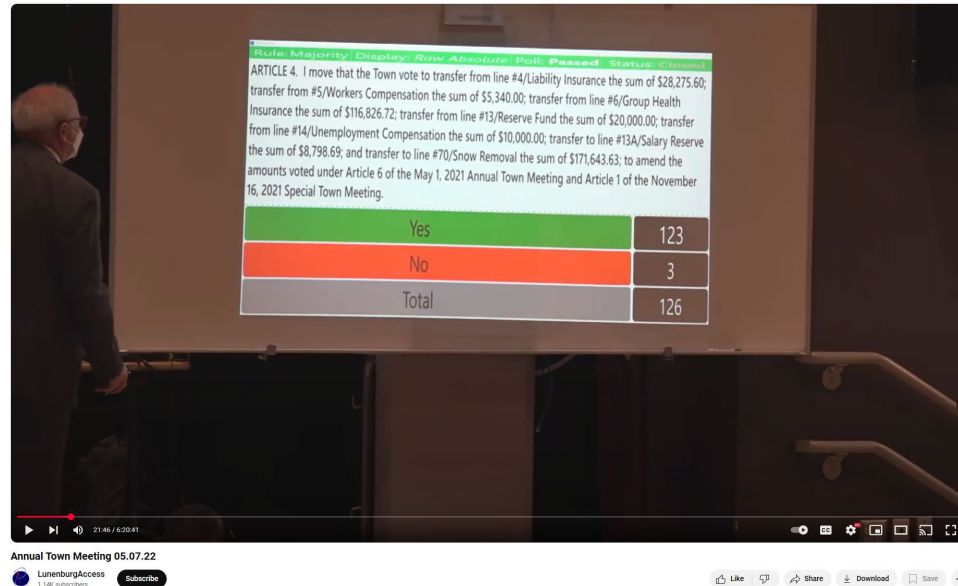
# *Exploring an Idea:* Bringing Electronic Voting Devices to Ayer Town Meeting

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CITIZEN PETITION | ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
APRIL 28, 2025

# What are Electronic Voting Devices?

- ❑ Hand-held devices that allow residents to press “yes” or “no.”
- ❑ Ideally, towns place screens in front to show the final vote count.



**Lunenburg Town Meeting, May 7, 2022**  
**Source: [www.youtube.com/@LunenburgAccess](https://www.youtube.com/@LunenburgAccess)**

Projector View

Rule : Majority | Display : Raw Absolute | Result : **Passed** | Status : Closed

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$948,136 to supplement the Lunenburg Public School's budget for Fiscal Year 2025, contingent upon the passage of a Proposition 2 ½ ballot question; or take any other action relative thereto. (Submitted by the Select Board)

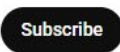
Yes	266
No	114
Abs	2
Total	382

Windows taskbar: 1:09 PM 5/4/2024

Annual Town Meeting 05.04.24



LunenburgAccess  
1.15K subscribers



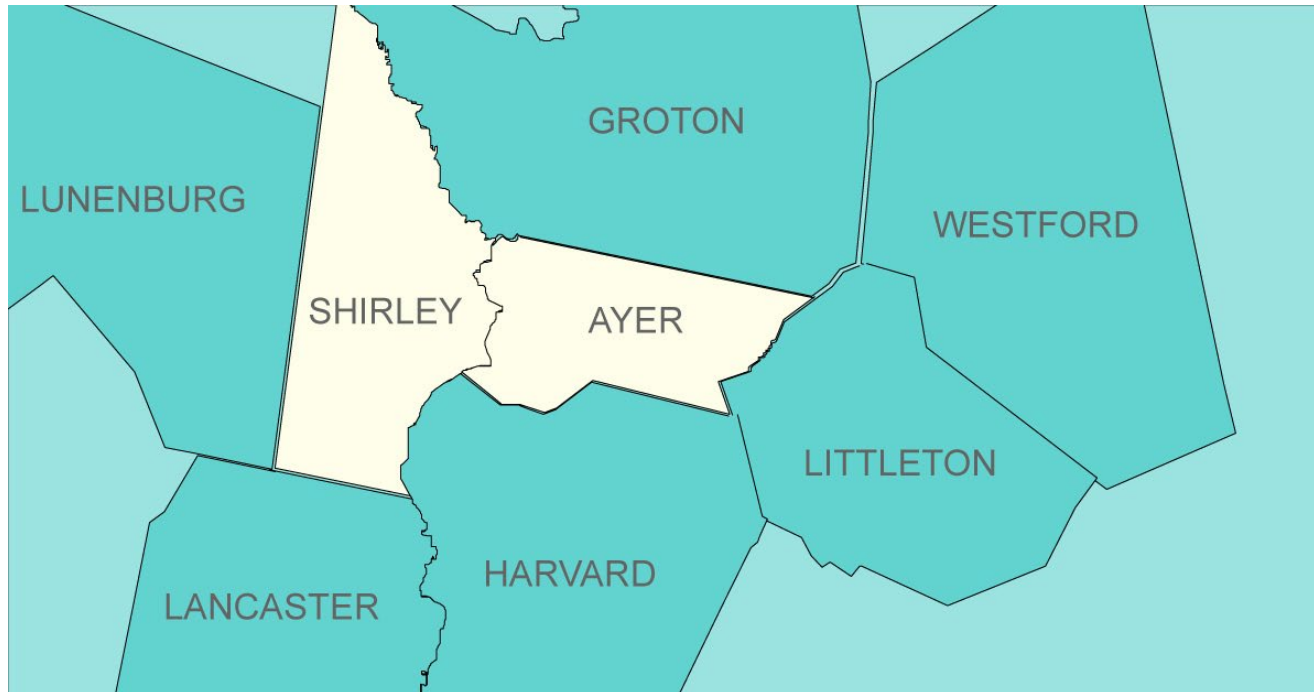
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515 views 11 months ago

No description has been added to this video.

# Use in Massachusetts

- ❑ 2011: Wayland first Town Meeting to use ([Metrowest Daily News](#)).
- ❑ 2025: More towns are using. One vendor reports 70+ Mass communities have used its electronic voting devices.



# Benefit: Privacy

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Residents can vote anonymously. No voice vote in front of:

- Town employees & committee members
- Family members
- Neighbors
- Your boss or others you work with (or may in future)
- Parents and other parents

***It's hard to vote if you're uncomfortable.***

# Benefit: Integrity of the Vote

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- More accurate and precise than a voice vote.
- No one has to vote yes by default.
- Gives more integrity to building, financial and zoning articles.
- Individual fairness: if you go to Town Meeting, you want to see the vote for yourself. Especially if you disagree with the vote.

# Benefit: Improved Meeting Experience

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- Power visual tool. Helps residents follow and have a more positive, comfortable experience.
- Faster voting saves time for more discussion or to finish earlier.
- Helps residents new to the meeting.
- Could encourage more residents to attend.

# Yes!!! One Town's Experience

“Electronic Voting has clearly fulfilled its original promise of speed, accuracy, and privacy. More importantly, it has facilitated **a more relaxed, deliberate, and methodical Town Meeting;** decisions made in this environment are better, to the **benefit of every Wayland citizen** – whether they attend Town Meeting or not.”

*-Wayland Town Meeting Electronic Voting Implementation Subcommittee, 2017*

Two notable improvements – electronic check-in and the random audit -- have been implemented, along with a significant strengthening of procedures to prevent proxy voting. The “How to Vote Electronically” and “Electronic Voting Procedures Handbook” documents have been continuously updated to reflect these improvements, along with several smaller optimizations suggested by public comments and in-meeting experience. Only one electronic voting handset has been lost.

Electronic Voting has clearly fulfilled its original promise of speed, accuracy, and privacy. More importantly, it has facilitated a more relaxed, deliberate, and methodical Town Meeting; decisions made in this environment are better, to the benefit of every Wayland citizen – whether they attend Town Meeting or not.

## PERSONNEL BOARD

Chapter 43 of the Code of the Town of Wayland defines the role of the Personnel Board to be the development and administration of the Wage and Salary Classification Plan and personnel policies and procedures in cooperation with the affected town boards and departments. In addition, the Board is charged with approving all pay or classification changes of town employees; negotiating collective bargaining agreements for the town; establishing and maintaining central personnel files for all employees; reviewing the operation of the Wage and Salary Classification Plan and recommending appropriate changes to town meeting.

Deborah Cohen served as Chair of the Board. Maryanne Peabody served as Vice Chair. Also serving on the Board were Philip Schneider, Jessica Green and Miranda Jones.

This year the Board continued working on a wide range of topics. Working in conjunction with the Board of Selectmen, Wayland was successful in negotiating with the Police Officers and introducing legislation which removed the Wayland Police Department from Civil Service. The Board continued to update Personnel Policies and established new policies which are consistent with recent changes to state and federal law.

Most Town of Wayland employees are members of collective bargaining units. Six different unions collectively bargain their members' wages and terms and conditions of employment. The Board is charged

with negotiating union contracts. All six collective bargaining agreements expired on June 30, 2017. The Board is engaged in bargaining with all of the unions.

Throughout the year, a variety of employment issues affecting employees were addressed. Topics included but were not limited to collective bargaining grievances, the creation of new positions and accompanying job descriptions, reviews of current job descriptions, reviews of job classifications and wage rates. The Board continues to maintain a posture of strict interpretation of the collective bargaining language.

The Town continued to support its Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for all employees who may be in need of assistance with personal problems, work-related issues, legal or financial matters.

The Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) provided a variety of training opportunities for various employees through its insurance Rewards Program. Participation in the MIIA programs continues to earn the Town credits towards its annual liability insurance premiums. Wayland also participates in training opportunities through a collective of nearby communities which pool training funds.

The Personnel Board would like to thank all boards, committees, officials and employees for their cooperation and input during the past year. The Board welcomes attendance at its meetings and would like to remind all employees and officials that the Personnel Board is available to assist on a wide variety of workplace matters.

## HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Members: Elisa Scola, Chair; Rick Conard, Tonya Largy, John Dyer, Kay Westcott, Ann Gordon, Amanda Ciaccio, and Associate Member Mike Lowery

The Wayland Historical Commission (WHC), a seven-member town agency, meets once a month, September through June, to plan the identification, evaluation, and protection of Wayland's historical, cultural, and archaeological resources. During FY2017, its scope of work included the management of ongoing programs, as well as continuing

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Please Vote Yes to Ask the Select Board  
to Review the Idea of Implementing Electronic  
Voting Devices at Town Meeting.