Fall Town Meeting: November 9, 2026

An article-by-article guide to the warrant.

The Warrant: November 9, 2026

The warrant is the meeting's agenda. It has eight articles. At the meeting, voters vote on a **motion** under each article. A motion can be narrower than the article but cannot go beyond it.

Before the meeting, the Town publishes a **Report to Voters**. It lists each motion, gives the dollar amounts, explains why the article is on the warrant, and says what the board or committee bringing it recommends.

For each article below, we give:

- **a short summary in plain language**, written by the Wrentham Voter Guide, in a shaded green box;
- the motion and recommendation from the Town's Report to Voters; and
- the official warrant text.

Official documents

Everything in these documents is on this page as text. The originals are linked here:

Report to Voters, November 9, 2026 (PDF, 5 pages)

Warrant, November 9, 2026 (scanned PDF, 3 pages; may not work well with screen readers)

1. Volunteer of the Year
2. Collective Bargaining – Fire Department
3. General Bylaw Amendment – Editorial Title Corrections
4. Alcohol License Extension (Home Rule Petition)
5. Revocation of MGL c.31 § 58A
6. Funding Extension – Metacomet Greenway Engineering
7. Rice Recreation Complex – Field Lighting
8. Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Data Center Definition

Opening of the Warrant

Warrant for the Fall Town Meeting, November 9, 2026. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Norfolk. To the Constables of the Town of Wrentham in the County of Norfolk, Greetings:

You are hereby required in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to notify and warn qualified voters of said Town of Wrentham to assemble at the King Philip Regional High School, 201 Franklin Street Wrentham, MA 02093 at 7:00PM on Monday, November 9, 2026 then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1: Volunteer of the Year

In plain language: The Select Board recognizes Wrentham's 2026 Volunteer(s) of the Year.

From the Town's Report to Voters

The Report to Voters does not include Article 1. It is a recognition.

Official warrant text: For the Select Board to recognize the Town of Wrentham's 2026 Volunteer(s) of the year; or take any other action relative thereto. (Select Board)

Article 2: Collective Bargaining – Fire Department

In plain language: Asks voters to approve **$135,000** to pay for the new Fire Union contract this fiscal year (FY2027). $99,225 would be "raised and appropriated," meaning it is paid from this year's regular town revenue, which is mostly property taxes, rather than from savings or a special account. The other $35,775 would come from ambulance fees the Town has already collected. The contract was settled after the spring Town Meeting approved this year's budget, so the raise was not in the budget.

From the Town's Report to Voters

Motion: Move that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of $99,225 and transfer from Ambulance Receipts the sum of $35,775 to fund the settlement of the Wrentham Fire Union contract negotiations for FY2027.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval.

Official warrant text: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, to appropriate by transfer from available funds in the treasury or appropriate by transfer from funds previously appropriated to other accounts, a sum of money to fund the Wrentham Fire Union Contract; or take any other action relative thereto. (Finance Committee)

Article 3: General Bylaw Amendment – Editorial Title Corrections

In plain language: Updates job titles in the General Bylaws:

- "Town Administrator" becomes "Town Manager"
- "Superintendent of Public Works" becomes "Director of Public Works"
- "Town Planner" becomes "Director of Planning and Economic Development"

These titles were already changed in the Town Charter at the November 2023 Fall Town Meeting. This makes the bylaws match.

From the Town's Report to Voters

Motion: Same title changes as the warrant text below.

Recommendation: The General Bylaw Review Committee recommends approval.

Official warrant text: To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws by deleting the word "Town Administrator" each time it appears in said bylaw and inserting the term "Town Manager" in place thereof, and further, deleting the words "Superintendent of Public Works" each time it appears and inserting in place thereof the term "Director of Public Works", and further, deleting the words "Town Planner" each time it appears and inserting in place thereof the term "Director of Planning and Economic Development"; or take any other action relative thereto. (General Bylaw Review Committee)

Article 4: Alcohol License Extension (Home Rule Petition)

In plain language: A 2024 state law gave Wrentham seven extra alcohol licenses for the Downtown Village Zones and the Stonewall Boulevard area. The Town must issue them by January 2028, or they expire. The properties are not likely to be developed by then. This article lets the Select Board ask the state legislature to extend the deadline to January 3, 2031. The Town plans to file the request when the new legislative session starts in January 2027.

From the Town's Report to Voters

Motion: Authorize the Select Board to petition the state legislature for the special act shown in the warrant text below. The wording of the act is unchanged.

Recommendation: The Select Board recommends approval.

Official warrant text: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for a special act reading as follows:

> AN ACT EXTENDING THE TIME FOR THE ISSUANCE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSES IN THE TOWN OF WRENTHAM
>
> SECTION 1: Subsection (f) of section 1 of chapter 318 of the acts of 2024 is hereby amended by striking out the words “within 3 years after the effective date of this act” and inserting in place thereof the following words: – on or before January 3, 2031.
>
> SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage;

or take any other action relative thereto. (Select Board)

Article 5: Revocation of MGL c.31 § 58A (Accepted 11/12/2002)

In plain language: In 2002, Town Meeting adopted a state law that sets a maximum age of 32 for first-time appointment as a Wrentham police officer. This article asks voters to undo that 2002 vote. According to the Town, the age limit makes it hard to hire experienced officers who want to transfer from police departments outside the state civil service system. Removing it would widen the pool of candidates.

From the Town’s Report to Voters

Motion: Move that the Town rescind its acceptance of MGL c.31 § 58A.

Recommendation: The Select Board recommends approval.

Official warrant text: To see if the Town will vote to rescind its acceptance of MGL c. 31, § 58A accepted by Article 30 of the November 12, 2002 Fall Town Meeting which provides a maximum age of 32 years for original appointment to the position of police officer; or take any other action relative thereto. (Select Board)

Article 6: Funding Extension – Metacomet Greenway Engineering

In plain language: Gives more time, until December 31, 2028, to spend $200,000 that Town Meeting already approved in June 2024 for a Metacomet Greenway design study. No new money is requested. The money had to be spent by June 30, 2026. The study is a MassDOT (state) project, and delays meant the money was not spent in time. Without this vote, the Town cannot use it.

From the Town's Report to Voters

Motion: Move that the Town extend the deadline for the Metacomet Greenway Engineering Design Study expenditures through December 31, 2028 or funds will be returned to their source and no longer available for expenditure on this project.

Recommendation: The Community Preservation Committee and the Finance Committee recommend approval.

Official warrant text: To see if the Town will vote to extend the deadline to expend the sum of $200,000 for the Metacomet Greenway Engineering Design Study that was previously approved as Article 17 at the June 3, 2024 Town Meeting. Funds appropriated must now be used by December 31, 2028 or will be returned to their source, and no longer be available for expenditure on this project; or take any other action relative thereto. (Community Preservation Committee)

Article 7: Rice Recreation Complex – Field Lighting

In plain language: Construction of the new Roderick Elementary School will replace the two lighted Little League fields at the Sweatt Recreation Complex, near the Fiske Public Library. Two replacement fields are being built at the William Rice Recreation Complex, but current funding lights only one of them. This article asks for **$350,000** from the Community Preservation Fund to light the second field, so the town keeps two lighted fields. Community Preservation money comes from a local property tax surcharge plus state matching funds. It can only be spent on certain kinds of projects, such as recreation.

From the Town's Report to Voters

Motion: Move that the Town appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund:

- $55,168 from the Open Space and Recreation Reserve account;
- $7,825 from the Budgeted Reserve account; and
- $287,007 from the Undesignated Fund Balance

for the purpose of funding the lighting of one Little League Field at the William Rice Recreation Complex. (Total: $350,000.)

The warrant text below also says the money must be used by December 31, 2028. The motion in the Report to Voters does not repeat that deadline.

Recommendation: The Community Preservation Committee and the Finance Committee recommend approval.

Official warrant text: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of $350,000 from the Open Space and Recreation Reserve account, and/or the Budgeted Reserve account, and/or the Undesignated Fund Balance account of the Community Preservation Fund for the purpose of

funding the lighting of one Little League Field at the William Rice Recreation Complex. Funds appropriated must be used by December 31, 2028 or will be returned to their source, and no longer be available for expenditure on this project; or take any other action relative thereto. (Community Preservation Committee)

Article 8: Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Data Center Definition

In plain language: Adds a definition of "data center" to the Zoning Bylaws, and lists data centers as **not allowed** in all ten of Wrentham's zoning districts. This means no data center could be built anywhere in town. Small server rooms or closets that support another main use are not affected.

From the Town's Report to Voters

Motion: Move that the Town approve Article 8 as written in the Warrant by inserting a definition of "Data Center" into Article 2 of the Zoning By-Laws and by inserting "Data Center" into the Zoning By-Laws' Use Regulation Schedule as a prohibited use in all Districts.

Recommendation: The Planning Board recommends approval.

Official warrant text: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning By-Laws as follows:

1. By inserting to Article 2, "Definitions" the following new definitions in appropriate alphabetical order:

   > DATA CENTER: a building or series of buildings, with the intended primary use being commercial/industrial, that houses and supports the high-performance computer servers, storage systems, networking equipment, and related computing infrastructure and equipment necessary for storing, processing, and distributing data and applications. This definition does not include small-scale server rooms/closets that are accessory to principal use.

2. Inserting to subsection 4.2, "Use Regulation Schedule" the Commercial use designation of "DATA CENTER" to read as follows:

   Data Center in the Use Regulation Schedule, by zoning district (N means the use is not allowed)

A. Commercial Uses	R-30	R-43	R-87	B-1	B-2	C-1	C-2	CRSP	VZ-A	VZ-B
Data Center	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

   In the printed warrant, some district names carry footnote numbers (R-30, R-43, R-87, B-2 and C-1). Those refer to footnotes already in the Zoning Bylaw and are left out here.

Or take any other action relative thereto. (Planning Board)

Signatures and Posting

Given under the hands and seal of the Town of Wrentham on October 13, 2026, by the Wrentham Select Board, whose members are listed on the warrant as Christopher Gallo, Michelle Rouse, William Harrington, James Anderson, and Roy Lamothe.

The Constable certified that the warrant was posted on October 15, 2026, at the Town Offices and five other places in town, at least fourteen days before the meeting, as required by the Town Bylaws.

Anyone in need of special accommodations for the Town Meeting should contact the Office of the Select Board at 508-384-5400 by October 28, 2026.

The plain-language summaries are written by the Wrentham Voter Guide. The motions and recommendations come from the Town's Report to Voters, and the official text was transcribed from the posted warrant. If anything here differs from the Town's documents, the Town's documents govern. Recommendations are the Town boards' and committees', not the Voter Guide's; we do not take positions on articles.