



Shutesbury Select Board
PO Box 276
Shutesbury, MA 01072

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SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 5
Shutesbury Elementary School
23 West Pelham Road

Resident
Shutesbury, MA 01072

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 5
Shutesbury Elementary School
23 West Pelham Road



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Please bring this to
Town Meeting

Warrant
2013 Special Town Meeting
Town of Shutesbury
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

To one of the constables of the Town of Shutesbury in the County of Franklin, 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 elections and town affairs, to meet at **7:00 pm on Tuesday, 5th day of November** at the Shutesbury Elementary at 23 West Pelham Road in said Shutesbury, in the year Two Thousand and Thirteen, then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1. To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$2,977.84 from free cash to pay prior year bill for Hauling Expenses or take any other action relative thereto.
Finance Committee Recommends

Requires 9/10ths vote

Article 2. To see if the town will vote to transfer from free cash, \$14,700.00 to repair the leaking slate roof of the MN Spear Memorial Library.
Finance Committee Recommends

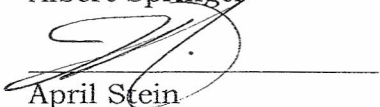
Requires majority vote

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this warrant, with your doings thereon, at the time and place of the meeting.

Given under our hands this 21th day of October Two Thousand and Thirteen.

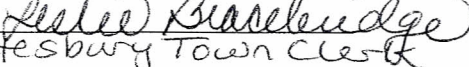

Elaine Puleo, Chairman


Albert Springer


April Stein



A true copy.

Attest: 
Shutesbury Town Clerk

I, the undersigned Constable for the Town of Shutesbury, certify that I posted attested copies of the Warrant for the above mentioned meeting at the Locks Pond Bulletin Board, the Shutesbury Post Office, and the Town Hall in said Town fourteen (14) days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Constable  Date 10/22/13

Please attend
Fragrance Free.

Message from the Town Clerk:

Though **you will find a Warrant for a Special Town Meeting on November 5** in this mailing, the short answer to a question that many people have asked me is: Shutesbury will not be having an election on November 5. Long Answer: Towns hold annual elections every spring; cities hold bi-annual elections in the odd-year Novembers (opposite the even-year state November elections.) Additionally, this November, there are numerous special replacement elections, as well as casino referendums going on across the state this year that are adding to the confusion.

Next year Shutesbury will have our annual town election in May, and we will be participating in the state November U.S. Senatorial Election. And, of course, in November 2016 Shutesbury will be voting in the November state election for the President of the United States. I'm enclosing an interesting calendar of Statewide Elections through 2022 as I think it is of interest to more people than Town Clerks!

Back to Shutesbury: I will be mailing out the state mandated annual street list/local census forms for January 1, 2014. Your immediate response results in maintaining your current voter registration, and it provides proof of residence for any number of state, federal, and local benefits, including verification of eligibility for Shutesbury trash bags! FAQ's are on the back of the census form. Thank you in advance for completing and returning your annual census form as soon as you receive it.

The census mailing will also include information and timelines for the May 2014 annual local election process. It's never too early to consider running or re-running for a local office!

Finally, the initiative petition season is in full swing! If you are asked to sign a petition, please write legibly or print your name after your signature. If I cannot identify a name on the petition, it cannot be counted. Also, the address line must be correct: Include your correct street/road and number, not P.O. Box numbers. Make sure the sheet that you sign says Shutesbury (not Shrewsbury, Leverett or Amherst!) In addition, you must be a registered voter by the time the petitions are submitted to the Town Clerk's office for your signature to be counted.

If you have any questions about elections, the census form, or initiative petitions, please feel welcome to call me at 259-1204 or email townclerk@shutesbury.org.
Leslie Bracebridge, Town Clerk

REMINDER FROM THE TOWN COLLECTOR

Your second quarter real estate tax bills must be received on or before
November 1 to avoid interest. Postmarks are NOT accepted.

Ellen McKay
Town Collector

Statewide Office Elections

Schedule: 2014-2022

Offices	Term of Office (years)	2014	2016	2018	2020	2022
President	4		★		★	
Vice President	4		★		★	
U.S. Senator ¹	6	★		★	★	
U.S. Representative	2	★	★	★	★	★
Governor	4	★		★		★
Lt. Governor	4	★		★		★
Secretary of the Commonwealth	4	★		★		★
Attorney General	4	★		★		★
Treasurer	4	★		★		★
Auditor	4	★		★		★
Governor's Council	2	★	★	★	★	★
State Senator	2	★	★	★	★	★
State Representative	2	★	★	★	★	★
County Commissioner ²	4	★	★★	★	★★	★
District Attorney	4	★		★		★
County Treasurer ²	6	★			★	
Register of Probate	6	★			★	
Register of Deeds	6			★		
Clerk of Courts	6			★		
Sheriff	6		★			★
Town or ward party committees ³	4		★		★	
State party committee ³	4		★		★	

★ Elect One

★★ Elect Two: There are three county commissioners in the county; two are elected in one election and one in the next election although some counties have special provisions that differ.

- 1 There are two U.S. senators representing Massachusetts; their six year terms overlap and only one is elected when the senate seat is on the ballot.
- 2 Some counties no longer elect commissioners or treasurers.
- 3 Political party town, ward and state committee members are elected in the presidential primary held in March of the presidential election years. Voters also indicate their preference for president in the presidential primary. Party candidates for all other offices on this chart are nominated in the September state primary.

Confused by Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes?

Here's what you need to know:

Excise Taxes are a fee levied by the STATE for the privilege of using roads and other avenues of transportation (such as waterways). They are issued in batches by the Registry of Motor Vehicles, who then sends them to the Town in which your vehicle was garaged on January 1st or on the date you registered it if after January 1st. Payment is due within 30 days of the "issue" date on your bill. The fee covers the full year or whatever portion of the year that particular vehicle is registered.

Generally, you cannot receive an abatement of an excise tax bill unless the vehicle has been sold, traded, totaled, repossessed or junked AND the plate has been transferred to another vehicle, cancelled or returned to the Registry. So what's the problem? Getting billed for a vehicle you no longer have?

No longer living in the town that's sent you a bill?

YOU MUST STILL PAY YOUR BILL! If you do not **pay your bill on time**, you are subject to **fines, interest and ultimately a hold on your license and/or registration.**

Here's what you need to do:

IF YOU NO LONGER OWN THE VEHICLE

If you have sold, traded, junked, or given away your vehicle or had it repossessed or taken by an insurance company following an accident, you need to provide the Town which sent you an excise with:

1. **a signed and dated abatement application** (available on line at [www.shutesbury.org/offices & committees/Assessor/](http://www.shutesbury.org/offices&committees/Assessor/) Motor Vehicle Excise Abatement Application, or from the Assessors office)
2. **proof that you no longer own the vehicle.** This may be a transfer of title, bill of sale or gift (hand-written is fine), or purchase agreement showing the car as a trade, or an insurance company settlement report showing vehicle identification number and date. All documents must be **signed** and show the **date of transfer & identification** of the car (year, make, model and VIN if possible).
3. **proof of license plate cancellation, return or transfer** (a returned plate receipt, or on-line cancellation from <http://www.massrmv.com>, or a copy of a new registration using the old plate).

IF YOU'VE MOVED...WITHIN MASSACHUSETTS

The town in which your vehicle was "**garaged**" on **January 1st or on the day you registered it if after January 1st** is the town to which you owe your tax. If you moved prior to January 1st and received a bill from the town you left, you may request an abatement from the town you left by providing proof of residency elsewhere (such as a signed and dated lease; registration of the same vehicle with vehicle identification number and date listed in another town). **By law, you must notify your insurance company and the Registry of Motor Vehicles within 30 days of a move!** Note that your **mailing address and place of garaging may differ.** **VERY IMPORTANT:** Please make sure your **insurance company and the Registry** correctly identify on their forms the town in which your vehicle is **garaged!**

IF YOU'VE MOVED....OUTSIDE MASSACHUSETTS

Provide the Assessors' Office with a copy of (a) an **abatement application**, (b) your **new registration** in your new state **and** (c) a copy of your **plate cancellation or return receipt in Massachusetts.**

Questions? Call the Assessors' office regarding abatements and the Tax Collector regarding fines or interest levied on late tax payments. **Shutesbury Assessors Hours:** Mon & Tues 10 – 3 PM ,
Wed 1-4 PM, Thurs 12-4 PM, Fri by appt. Email: assessor@shutesbury.org Tel: 413-259-3790
Shutesbury Tax Collector: Call for hours: tel. 413-259-1615

Best wishes and MANY THANKS to Toni Costa!

October 25, 2013 marked Toni Costa's final day as secretary for Shutesbury Elementary School. Toni has felt the support and love from ALL OF YOU, who have expressed this since the announcement of her acceptance of a new job. Although October 25 was Toni's last day as Secretary, it is NOT the last day we will see her. She will return from time to time, and we'll be happy to see her when she does.

Maureen Ryan, Principal
Shutesbury Elementary School

PRE-SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT/SCREENING FOR 3, 4, & 5 YEAR OLDS IN THE COMMUNITY

In Shutesbury, developmental screening is available through the school as a first step in a process intended to find children in need of special services and to plan for meeting those needs. The screening focuses on a child's growth in a number of areas, such as large and small muscle control, speech/language development and concept development. This activity takes about twenty minutes and consists of a number of games that children typically enjoy playing. The screening gives an indication of whether or not a child's skills are developing within the typical range.

. If you or anyone you know has children under the age of five, or you have questions or concerns about your child's development, please contact us for more information about the program. Contact Grace Griecci, Pre-k teacher, at 253-1212 ext.140 or email her at griecig@shutesburyschool.org

This screening is available to all families in town, including those with a child not already enrolled in the school's preschool program

Join Nextdoor Shutesbury

The interactive community network, Nextdoor Shutesbury, is a set of tools (website, email exchange system) that let's Shutesbury residents communicate with each other as a group. Members must have a Shutesbury residential address, and non-members cannot see any info posted to the group.

The site has been active for more than a year, and currently has 226 members. Additionally, there is a group of 331 residents in the Amherst/Shutesbury "High Point" neighborhood we can share info with, as well. Members share event postings, request and share recommendations for services, post lost & found pets, ride-sharing, safety alerts, etc. Join up, and check it out. You can receive emails for each posting, or a periodic 'digest' of the exchanges, or you can just browse the website when it's convenient.

You can join by going to <https://shutesburyma.nextdoor.com> and following the instructions. If you have any problems, drop an email to Paul Vlach at vlach@admin.umass.edu and we'll help you get signed up.