



Office of the Town Clerk
1 Main Street
Ayer, MA 01432
(978)772-8215

October 2, 2018

To: Absentee Voter

Subject: October 6, 2018 - Local Debt Exclusion Question - Update

This Saturday, October 6, 2018, the Ayer Shirley Regional School District will be conducting a district election in the towns of Ayer and Shirley in connection with a proposed new athletic complex.

The Town of Ayer had also planned to hold a local election on Saturday to consider a ballot question proposing a debt exclusion for the Town's allocable share of the costs of that project. This would have resulted in the Town running two separate elections with two separate ballots.

Be aware, however, that although the Town discussed the issue of the local debt exclusion election in various forums, concerns have now been raised with respect to whether the Town strictly complied with the state law establishing deadlines for placement of a local question on the ballot. Review of the Town's records does not affirmatively demonstrate strict compliance with that law, and therefore, out of an abundance of caution, the local election, i.e., the debt exclusion question, will not proceed on Saturday.

More information is available on the Town's website: www.ayer.ma.us.

In connection with the local debt exclusion election, you have already cast an absentee ballot over the counter at the office, returned your absentee ballot, or been mailed an absentee ballot and have not yet returned it.

If the ballot for the local debt exclusion election has been or is returned, I will retain that ballot, without opening it or reviewing it in any manner, for the period required by law.

If you have voted or returned an absentee ballot for the Regional School District election, that will be processed at the polls on Saturday in accordance with law.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please feel free to call me at 978-772-8215 or e-mail scopeland@ayer.ma.us.

Thank you,

Susan E, Copeland