

*Pursuant to section 11 of Chapter 15 of the Acts of 2020, this report is hereby offered for review and acceptance by the Arlington Select Board in advance of the upcoming 2022 elections.*

On Friday, December 10, 2021, the Local Election District Review Commission approved Arlington's new precinct boundaries. As a result, the Town Clerk and the Select Board jointly recommend changing the polling locations for three precincts to take advantage of a recently renovated building and to reduce the distance some voters travel to their polling place.

### **Precincts 5 and 7**

At this time, and after careful consideration of viable alternatives, including all municipal and school buildings, the Gibbs School, 41 Foster St, is recommended as the new polling location for the residents of Precincts 5 and 7. Several important factors contributed to this recommendation, including:

- 1) the building and grounds are accessible for ADA compliance purposes;
- 2) the theater space where the polls will be located is spacious enough to maintain social distancing for election workers and for voters while casting their ballots;
- 3) the property is located within the boundaries of Precinct 7 & adjacent to Precinct 5;
- 4) the property is entirely within the control of the Town of Arlington; and
- 5) the previous location for Precinct 5 was the Thompson elementary school and moving the precinct out of this building reduces crowding.

### **Precinct 9**

At this time, and after careful consideration of viable alternatives, including all municipal and school buildings, Arlington Town Hall, 730 Massachusetts Avenue, is recommended as the new polling location for the residents of Precinct 9. Several important factors contributed to this recommendation, including:

- 1) the building and grounds are accessible for ADA compliance purposes;
- 2) the auditorium in which the polls will be located is spacious enough to maintain social distancing for election workers and for voters while casting their ballots;
- 3) the property is located directly across Massachusetts Avenue from Precinct 9 and on a major transportation corridor;
- 4) the property is entirely within the control of the Town of Arlington; and
- 5) the previous location for Precinct 9 was the Bishop elementary school which is not as accessible by bus and not within walking distance.

Given the Town Hall's long time use as a polling location, its central location in Arlington, and the other factors stated in this report, the designation of Arlington Town Hall as a polling location for the residents of Precinct 9 would not have a disparate adverse impact on access to the polls on the basis of race, national origin, disability, income or age.

The newly renovated Gibbs School offers a convenient neighborhood location for Precincts 5 and 7 near the Mass Ave transportation corridor and would not have a disparate adverse impact on access to the polls on the basis of race, national origin, disability, income or age.

Please be advised that every Arlington household with registered voters will be notified by postcard of their precinct and polling location.

Respectfully submitted, *Juliana H. Brazile, Town Clerk*