



TOWN OF PLYMOUTH

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PLYMOUTH TOWN MODERATOR

DECLARATION OF RECESS AND CONTINUANCE OF APRIL 4, 2020 ANNUAL AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETINGS

This Declaration of Recess and Continuance of the Plymouth Annual and Special Town Meetings is issued pursuant to the authority vested in the Town Moderator by the provisions of G.L. c. 39, §10A and in follow-up to the Notice of Intent issued by me on March 13, 2020. Based upon the intensifying public health and safety emergency currently enveloping the Commonwealth and this community, I hereby provide notice to the Town of Plymouth that I have determined it is in the public's interest, due to the public health and safety risks posed by the novel coronavirus COVID-19, to recess and continue the April 4, 2020 Annual and Special Town Meetings until May 2, 2020 at 8:00 AM at Plymouth North High School.

I issue this Declaration after careful and considerable deliberation about the implications of the rapid spread of the disease, present lack of containment, and risk to most vulnerable populations inherent in public gatherings at this time. Various professional sports leagues, universities, school districts, cultural institutions and events, and more, have been cancelled, closed, or temporarily suspended normal operations. Similarly, various public and private entities have significantly restricted operations in response to the continued spread of the virus. Based upon the orders and recommendations issued by the Governor, among others, restricting large gatherings and various public functions, and the declaration of a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth, I consulted with public safety officials, the Board of Health, and members of the Board of Selectmen and reviewed guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A significant consideration in this decision includes the important role of Town Meeting as the legislative body of the Town, and my obligation to ensure that all who wish to participate are able, particularly, vulnerable members of our community.

Being respectful of the health, safety and wellbeing of all of the voters of the Town, therefore, I have determined in accord with G.L. c.39, §10A that the rapidly evolving situation involving COVID-19 will mean that some voters will be unable to attend the April 4, 2020 Town Meetings and that they will therefore be deprived of the opportunity to participate in such meeting. A delay at this time will avoid forcing voters to choose between participating in the Town Meetings and managing their health in a manner most appropriate for them.

To provide as much advance notice as possible, and in order to allow the Town the greatest period of time to evaluate the situation, this formal Declaration, will be deemed to be issued and take effect on April 4, 2020, the scheduled date of the Annual and Special Town Meetings.

Please contact the Town Moderator's office with any further questions at (508) 746-1464 or fax at (508) 746-9205 or e-mail at FST@plymouthlaw.com.

F. Steven Trifletti March 17, 2020 at 9:45 a.m.

F. Steven Trifletti
Town Moderator