

## Tri County Regional Vocational Technical High School Special District-Wide Election Information

A special district-wide election will be held on Tuesday October 24, 2023 in the Towns of Franklin, Medfield, Medway, Millis, Norfolk, North Attleboro, Plainville, Seekonk, Sherborn, Walpole and Wrentham, with polling hours from 12PM-8PM, to determine if a new \$283,000,000 Regional Vocational High School will be built. Note that regardless of the vote totals in each of the individual towns, the question will be approved if a majority of those voting in the election vote in favor of constructing a new building.

If the vote passes at the special district-wide election, member communities will be responsible for approximately \$200,000,000 of the total costs and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, through the Massachusetts School Building Authority, will be responsible \$83,000,000. The cost of the Vocational Technical High School construction will be added onto each regional school district member community's annual assessment for the next 30+ years, based upon enrollment as of October 1st of each year. Each member community will be responsible for identifying their own individual funding source each year to cover this expense.

The anticipated financial impact for the Town of Walpole upon the completion of the project will be approximately \$1,112,000 per year. This cost will need to be built into the Town's long-range financial plan, along with the \$115 million middle school project, a \$30+ million high school project currently in the design phase, and a five-year improvement plan for equipment and improvements for municipal and local school departments. Walpole officials have yet to identify a funding source to cover the expected cost to the Town if the project is approved. Options being considered will include:

- A proposition 2 ½ override vote.  
It is estimated that it will cost the average tax payer \$126+ per year for the next 30+ years if a debt exclusion is approved by the voters at an annual or special election.
- A reduction of the School Department and Town Budgets.  
In order to absorb the additional annual cost without a debt exclusion, it is anticipated that the Walpole Public Schools budget will have to be reduced by approximately \$740,000 and the Town budget will have to be reduced by approximately \$380,000.

Representatives from Tri County Regional Vocational Technical High School have committed to hold public outreach at the following locations:

- Walpole Council on Aging – 60 South Street  
Wednesday, October 11 – 11:00AM
- Walpole Public Library – 143 School Street  
Wednesday, October 11 – 7:00PM

Walpole residents are encouraged to attend these informational sessions to learn what this means for them and the town.

More information about the project is available at the Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School Building Project website at [www.tri-countybuilding.com](http://www.tri-countybuilding.com) and they can be contacted at (508) 528-5400.

Questions about the project's impact on the Town of Walpole may be directed to the office of Town Administrator by e-mail at [jjohnson@walpole-ma.gov](mailto:jjohnson@walpole-ma.gov) or by phone at 508-660-7277