



**EARLY / ABSENTEE
OFFICIAL BALLOT
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS
APRIL 1, 2024**

Philip E. Brennan
TOWN CLERK

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this: ☒
- B. Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office.
- C. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate's name and address on the line provided and completely fill in the OVAL.

MODERATOR	ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (ATHOL)	LIBRARY TRUSTEE
For One Year VOTE FOR ONE	For One Year VOTE FOR ONE	For Three Years VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO
LAWRENCE P. McLAUGHLIN <input type="radio"/> 77 Stevens Street Candidate for re-election	LEE E. CHAUVETTE <input type="radio"/> 255 Lake Ellis Road	CHRISTINE A. MIRANDA <input type="radio"/> 176 Riverview Avenue Candidate for re-election
(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	JASON MICHAEL SAVOY <input type="radio"/> 7 Park Street	KENNETH A. VAIDULAS <input type="radio"/> 78 Lakewood Drive
SELECTMAN	(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>
For Three Years VOTE FOR ONE	ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (ROYALSTON)	LIBRARY TRUSTEE
ANDREW J. SUJDAK <input type="radio"/> 148 Flat Rock Road Candidate for re-election	For Three Years VOTE FOR ONE	For One Year VOTE FOR ONE
(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	ROBERTA BOBBI NEWMAN <input type="radio"/> 121 Athol Road	DEBRA B. ELLIS <input type="radio"/> 1390 Chestnut Hill Avenue
ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE (ATHOL)	(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>
For Three Years VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO		HOUSING AUTHORITY
FRANK MICHAEL VISCO, II <input type="radio"/> 61 Froman Street		For Five Years VOTE FOR ONE
CHRISTIE LYNN WEHMEYER <input type="radio"/> 306 Cottage Street		EDWARD F. LEDGARD <input type="radio"/> 99 Blanchard Circle Candidate for re-election
(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>		(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>
(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>		CONSTABLE
		For Three Years VOTE FOR ONE
		(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT

QUESTIONSQuestion 1

Shall the Town of Athol approve the charter amendments adopted at the Fall Town Meeting on October 16, 2023 as summarized below?

SUMMARY OF CHARTER AMENDMENTS

- Changes title of Board of Selectmen to Select Board, makes all references gender neutral, deletes all amendment references, and corrects typographical and grammatical errors throughout Charter
- Generally eliminates distinction of a spring and fall town meeting providing only an annual town meeting, with other special town meetings called, per general law
- Deletes requirement to publish warrant for town meeting in newspaper but requires same to be posted on town website
- Deletes provision for referendum on actions taken at town meeting
- Deletes residency requirement for Town Clerk and Town Manager, but requires residence within 25 miles of Athol
- Adds final review and approval of collective bargaining agreements by Select Board
- Rewrites 6-6-2 to eliminate Personnel Board and vests personnel policy decisions in the Town Manager, subject to approval of the Select Board
- Modifies financial provisions and procedures to adjust for having one annual town meeting and eliminating obsolete language
- Allows Town Manager to appoint an associate member to the Board of Planning and Community Development
- Clarifies role of BPCD as the Planning Board for the Town
- Adds 2 new sections for vacant positions on appointed multiple member board

YES ☐NO ☐Question 2

Shall the Town of Athol be allowed to assess an additional \$286,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of hiring an additional 3 full-time paramedic/EMT/firefighters for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024?

YES ☐NO ☐**VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT**