



**The Public Schools of Brookline**  
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**V. James Marini, Ph.D.**  
Interim Superintendent

## **Brookline Annual Town Election** **May 4, 2021**

Brookline will hold the annual Town Election on Tuesday, May 4. Six of our nine school buildings serve as polling locations, representing ten of the sixteen precincts in town. Hosting the town elections is a long-standing and integral part of the PSB's civic obligation to the larger Brookline community. School will be in session on May 4 with all students and staff present. This is the first election since the COVID-19 pandemic began during which our students and staff will be in the buildings, so we are working closely with the Brookline Clerk's Office to ensure the safety of students, staff and voters.

The key to these efforts is staffing and signage. The Town Clerk's Office and precinct wardens will assign poll workers to the entrance to each building. These poll workers will actively guide voters to the polling location (gym). The clerk's office will also carefully mark the route from the door to the polling location with tape, floor markings, and/or cones, where necessary. The goal is to get voters in and out as quickly as possible. Any incidental passing of fully-masked voters with our staff/students in hallways will be very brief.

The wide availability of mail-in voting, the option to vote early at Town Hall, and the historic pattern of participation for a local election all suggest that voter turnout on May 4 will be modest. For those voters who do arrive on May 4, our improved ventilation systems and reduced capacity in larger spaces (such as gyms) are an added safeguard.

We are proud to provide safe and convenient voting locations for our fellow town residents while maintaining our focus on the safety of our students and staff. We are thankful for our partnership with the Town Clerk's Office to meet these goals.