

## **Explanation of the Ballot Question**

Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) [Chapter 41, Section 1B](#) provides a two-step process for changing an elected town office to an appointed position.

First, Town Meeting votes on whether to authorize the Select Board to place the question on the ballot. The voters of Shutesbury did this when they approved warrant article nine at Special Town Meeting on September 30, 2025.

Second, the voters of the Town vote on the change as a ballot question subject to majority vote. This is why the question now appears on this ballot.

Because the elected office of Town Clerk is currently vacant, it also appears on this ballot. Per MGL Chapter 41, Section 1B, should the ballot question be approved, any person elected to the office of Town Clerk in this election would serve until the Select Board appoints an individual to the position of Town Clerk. Should the ballot question fail, any person elected to the office of Town Clerk in this election would serve the full three-year term of office.