

CITY OF SALEM
SEPTEMBER 24, 2026
REGULAR MEETING

A Regular Meeting of the City Council was held in-person on Thursday, September 24, 2026 at 7:00 PM for the purpose of transacting any and all business. Notice of this meeting was posted on September 22, 2026, at 4:31 PM. This meeting is being recorded and is live on S.A.T.V. and Zoom unless technological issues interrupt the transmission.

Councilors absent:

Council President Merkl presided.

Councilor King moved to dispense with the reading of the record of the previous meeting. **VOTED**

President Merkl requested that everyone please rise to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Salem City Council Land Acknowledgement

The Salem City Council honors that this land is Naumkeag, or fishing place, where generations of Naumkeag people from the Pawtucket band of the Massachusetts Tribe lived and passed through for centuries.

We acknowledge that this is unceded Indigenous land and also acknowledge the Massachusetts Tribe, who continue to honor and hold this land into the present.

Salem's City Council is committed to having ongoing meaningful dialogue with the indigenous peoples who have presence in Salem in order to dismantle the legacies of oppression and inequities that persist today.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Polly Wilbert- Council Agenda
Carol Kent- Gas Powered Leaf Blowers

#456 National Grid to Install Conduits on Bridge St., in front of 252 Bridge St.

The following request from National Grid to install Conduits on Bridge Street in front of 252 Bridge Street was granted.

A hearing was held on the request from National Grid to install a Conduit on Bridge Street in front of 252 Bridge Street.

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John Jenkins 44 River St. Beverly National Grid appeared in favor of the project and stated the customer will be completing the work.

No one appeared apposed.

Councillor Holappa moved for the Public Hearing to be closed.

There was no discussion from any of the Councilors.

Councillor Holappa moved to grant the conduits

#457 CONDUITS ON NAPLES ROAD

The following order from National Grid to install conduits on Naples Road at the intersection of Naples Road and Hemenway Road was granted.

Order from National Grid to install Conduits on Naples Rd. at the intersection of Naples Rd. and Hemenway Rd.

Appearing in Favor was John Jenkins 44 River St. National Grid. No one appeared in opposition.

Mr. Jenkins from National Grid stated that the project would be from the sidewalk to the property line about +/- Five feet of the sidewalk, and that the work was needed for customer service and that the customer would be completing the work.

Councillor King moved to close the hearing be closed

Councillor moved to grant the Conduits

#458 NATIONAL GRID TO INSTALL CONDUITS ON WEBB STREET AT THE INTERSECTION OF WEBB AND FORT AVE

The following order from National Grid to install Conduits on Webb Street at the Intersection of Webb Street and Fort Ave was granted.

Order from National Grid to Install Conduits on Webb St., at the intersection of Webb St. and Fort Ave.

John Jakins from National Grid (44 River Street, Beverly, Ma) appeared in Favor of the project.

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Mr. Jakins stated that the Conduits where needed for a new construction project at 21 Webb Street.

No One appeared opposed.

Councillor Turowski moved to close the Public Hearing.

Councillor Turowski moved to grant the location

#459 GONETSPEED TO INSTALL AND MAINTAIN UNDERGROUND FIBER -OPTIC FACILITIES ON JEFFERSON AVE

The Following order form GoNetSpeed was granted
Order from GoNetSpeed to install and maintain underground fiber-optic facilities on Jefferson Ave.

Appearing in favor was John Dullaghan (25 Campus Drive, Gloucester ME) from GoNetSpeed.

No one appeared in opposition

Councillor Sydoriak spoke on a successful site visit and thanked Mr. Dullaghan for working with the City

Councillor Sydoriak Moved to close the Public Hearing.

Councillor Sydoriak Moved to grant the location

#404- ALPHONSE WRIGHT APPOINTMENT TO THE FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Held from the previous meeting the Mayor's Appointment of Alphonse Wright to the City of Salem's Food Policy Council with a term to expire on November 16, 2028 was confirmed by a Roll Call Vote of 10-0-1. Councillor Prosniewski was recorded as absent.

Counillor Smith discussed Mr. Wright's qualifications and other community involvement he has had. Thanked him for serving the community well.

Councillor Smith requested and received a Suspension of the Rules to allow Mr. Wright to address the Council. Mr. Wright was not present and did not address the Council.

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#405 APPOINTMENT OF CATRINA MEYER TO THE BICYCLING & SHARED PATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held from the pervious meeting, the Mayor's Appointment of Catrina Meyers 4 Willow Ave. to the Bicycling and Shared Path Advisory Committee Term to Expire February 10, 2028 was confirmed by a Roll Call Vote of 10-0-1. Councillor Prosniewski was recorded as absent. Councillor King thanked Catrina Mayer for serving on the committee and spoke on her qualifications to service on the committee. Councillor King requested and received suspension of the Rules to all Catrina Meyer to address the Council.

Catrina Meyer thanked the Council and appreciates the opportunity and looking forward to serving on the Bicycling and Shared Path Advisory Committee and lending their perspective, skills and expertise.

#406-APPOINTMENT OF ELENA RODRIGUEZ-DEPAUL TO THE RACE EQUITY COMMISSION

Held from the previous meeting the Mayor's appointment of Elena Rodriguez-DePaul was confirmed by a Roll Call Vote of 10-0-1. Councillor Prosniewski was recorded as absent. Councillor King discussed Ms. Rodriguez-DePaul's experience as an anti race, trauma informed educator in the Salem schools. Councillor King asked and received suspension of the rules to allow Elena Rodriguez-DePaul to address the Council. Elena Rodrguez-DePaul Thanked the Council for the appointment and it's a great honor to server her City.

#407 APPOINTMENT OF SAMANTHA STRINGFELLOW TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Held from the previous meeting the Mayor's Appointment of Samantha Stringfello of 4 Bay View Cir. to the Zoning Board of Appeals Term to Expire September 10, 2028, was confirmed by a Roll Call Vote of 10-0-1. Councillor Prosniewski was recorded as absent.

Councillor Turowski discussed Samantha Stringfellow's qualifications to server on the Zoning Board of Appeals and thanked her for her service.

Councillor Turowski requested and received suspension of the rules to allow Samantha String. low to address the Council. Ms. Stringfellow thanked the Council for her appointment and is looking forward to serving on the board.

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#408 REAPPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING BOARDS

Held from the previous meeting, the mayor's reappointment of the following was confirmed by a Roll Call Vote of 10-0-1. Councillor Prosniewski was recorded as absent

Name	Board/ Commission	Address	Term Length	Term Expiration
Elena Eimert	Planning Board	260 Washington Street #23	5 years	9/22/2031
Mark Meche	Historical Commission	1 Lowell Street	3 years	9/13/2029
Craig Bilodeau	Bicycling & Shared Path Advisory Committee	10 Ames Street	3 years	09/13/2029

Stephen Larrick* Zoning Board of Appeals 17 Carlton Street 5 years 09/10/2031

**Moving from alternate to regular seat; alternate seat previously held by Elena Eimert*

#460 APPOINTMENTS TO THE TAXPAYER RELIEF COMMITTEE

The Mayor's appointment of the following to the Taxpayer Relief Committee, with a Term to Expire September 24, 2029, was held under the rules until the next meeting.

Joe Ferrari 33 Roslyn St. Salem
 Kathleen Walker 2 Derby Sq. Salem
 Jill El-Ashkar 212 Canal St. Salem

#461- REAPPOINTMENTS

The Mayor's Re-Appointments of the following with Terms to Expire was held under the rules until the next meeting.

Name	Board/Commission	Address	Term Length	Term Expiration
Allie Carufel	Food Policy Council	83 Essex Street	3 years	September 24,2029
Bryan Apito	Public Art Commission	11 Cleveland Road	2 years	September 24,2028
Jim Bostick	Public Art Commission	32 Barr Street	2 years	September 24,2028

#462- APPOINTMENT OF DARRIEN MARAZZO ZERO WASTE SALEM.

The Mayor's Appointment of Darrien Marazzo of 1 Harbor St. to Zero Waste Salem for Informational Purposes Only was received and filled.

**#463- MGL CH. 44, SEC. 64- PAYING PERVIOUS FISCAL YEAR INVOICES WITH
 CURRENT FISCAL YEAR BUDGET- SCHOOL DEPARTMENT - \$10,768.48**

The following order submitted by the Mayor was adopted under suspension of the rules by a Roll Call Vote of 10-0-1. Councillor Prosniewski was recorded as Absent.

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ORDERED:

Per MGL Chapter 44 Section 64 which allows for a municipality to pay for prior fiscal year expenses using current fiscal year appropriations by two-thirds vote of the City Council we request the sum of Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Eight Dollars and Forty Eight Cents (\$10,768.48) of outstanding Fiscal Year 2025/2026 School Department salaries are hereby allowed to be paid from the Fiscal Year 2027 School Department's budget (account 13930120-5171) as listed below in accordance with the recommendation of His Honor the Mayor.

Department Description Amount

School On Track Facilitators \$6,832.00
 Collective Bargaining Reserve 13930120-5171
 School Language Evaluation and Family Advisor \$3,936.48
 Collective Bargaining Reserve
 13930120-5171
 Total \$ 10,768.48

#464- MGL CH. 44 SEC. 64- PAYING PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR INVOICES WITH CURRENT FISCAL YEAR BUDGET- PARKING DEPARTMENT- \$900.81

The following order submitted by the Mayor was adopted under suspension of the rules by a Roll Call Vote of 10-0-1 Councillor Prosniewski was recorded as absent.

ORDERED:

Per MGL Chapter 44 Section 64 which allows for a municipality to pay for prior fiscal year invoices using current fiscal year appropriations by two-thirds vote of the City Council we request the sum of Nine Hundred Dollars and Eighty One Cents (\$900.81) of an outstanding Fiscal Year 2026 invoice is hereby allowed to be paid from the Fiscal Year 2027 Parking Department's electricity budget (account 14812-5211) as listed below in accordance with the recommendation of His Honor the Mayor.

Department	Vendor	Amount
Parking Department	National Grid	\$900.81 Electricity (14812-5211)

Total \$900.81

#465- MGL CH. 44, SEC. 64- PAYING PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR INVOICES WITH CURRENT FISCAL YEAR BUDGET ENGINEERING \$ 330.00

The following order submitted by the Mayor was adopted under suspension of the rules by a Roll Call Vote of 10-0-1 Councillor Prosniewski was recorded as absent.

ORDERED:

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Per MGL Chapter 44 Section 64 which allows for a municipality to pay for prior fiscal year invoices using current fiscal year appropriations by two-thirds vote of the City Council we request the sum of Three Hundred Thirty Dollars and Zero Cents (\$330.00) of an outstanding Fiscal Year 2025 invoice is hereby allowed to be paid from the Fiscal Year 2027 Engineering Department's Solid Waste Fund budget (account 620032-5291) as listed below in accordance with the recommendation of His Honor the Mayor.

Department Vendor Amount
 Engineering Department Hart Halsey LLC \$330.00 Solid Waste Collection (620032-5291)
 Total \$330.00

#466- VIA TRANSPORTATION, INC DBA RIVER NORTH TRANSIT LLC ON DEMAND RIDESHARE PROGRAM CONTRACT

ORDERED: The City Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to enter into a five-year contract with Via Transportation, Inc., doing business as River North Transit LLC of New York, New York for an on demand rideshare program.

Discussion:

Councillor Davis: This contract is for the Salem Skipper. The City recently received a recent grant from MassDot which will enable the city to maintain the service until at least June 30, 2027. The contract is for 5 years which allows for periodic extensions past that point subject to future funding.

Councillor King: I am also thrilled to see this on here because it means extending the program through June of next year. I will note that the City Council is voting tonight because the contract is being extended for five years, and that is why it is in front of us. I would love to see the contract in the future cases when the whole point is the contract is why we're reviewing it. I think this appended before where there is no contract in the back up. would like to see the contract in the future.

Councillor Holappa: I have a mind to vote against this tonight, which might sound crazy if you've ever met me or heard me talk about transportation. It's because of how little information the Council has around this. We as mentioned have not seen the contract, there is no information in the backup material that there's a notion to find more sustainable funding plan, as was mentioned by Councillor Davis there a grant that is going to extend this until next year, mid next year. I really would prefer to have this information so we can make informed decision and try to really collaboratively discuss with the Transportation Department how we can make this critical service work in the long term and how I understand this is going to be different this time, I swear from what just appended, which is that for the last six months people that we have all heard really deeply depend on this service. And that they have had very little understanding how long they were going to be able to use this service, because it keeps getting extended

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and then it was getting ascended again. I hope that we all understand this is critical transportation infrastructure and we should not be playing with peoples lives like this. That said it is my understanding that and I have not had this confirmed by the Transportation Director, but my understanding is that the existing contract expires on Wednesday. I would like to send this to committee. But because it is six days before the expiry contract. I'm not interested in playing with people's lives like that, so I would like this to be granted, but I'm not happy about the circumstances of this.

Councillor Turowski: If we could get some clarity before next Wednesday on whether or not there is an expiration date associated with the grant, because if we do not want to delay this to the point where we lose the money that we have already been promised.

Councillor Merkl: I'll make the point that when the agenda is posted, which is a Tuesday evening before the meeting, we're all welcome to reach out to the departments with questions.

Councillor Smith: I'll ask if anyone did reach out and has the information, but if this is voted down it still means they can enter into a three year contract, but we are only entering into a contract until June as of now. It means they can enter into a contract for three years with VIA, still provide the Skipper their asking to extend the terms, perhaps for negotiations, perhaps so that there's some continuity in the future. I do not think we really know. And again do we really want to play with folks lives? I am not sure, but if anybody has this information, I would love to hear it.

Councillor Davis: I would like to offer up that I am happy to schedule an Administration and Finance meeting about this topic. Maybe not sending this to that meeting. I think that there probably some consequences of not voting this through but it sounds like there is some discussion to be had. If it is the will of the body to have a meeting on this topic that we can schedule a meeting.

Councillor King: I do not have the official answer from the transportation department. I will say I would guess that they are not entering into a five year contract just for fun. I would assume that it had something to do with the RFP that they put out or general terms. the language we have in the back up is about it being conditional. Upon extensions has to do with funding and not the contract. It is not a contract for nine months, it's still a contract for five years and it is written in to the language of the contract that extending is contingent upon the City being able to continue to find the money. The fact that we are six days away, I'll be voting yes for this because I think that we need to continue the program and I do not think it is worth holding up in a committee. I think that it's more of a point in general. It would be helpful if we received the contracts, when we have a vote like this. But, I do not think that anyone in this room probably has enough information to put this at risk by holding it up in my opinion.

Councillor Hapworth: I'd just add that if we want to pass this tonight, that makes a lot of sense. If someone wants to put in a late file, there's paper in your desk, you can write

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out a late file, put that in there, just to get into the Committee on Administration and Finance. If they have questions, I'll just second the point these agendas come out in a bit of a flurry from the mayor's office. Sometimes the backup is extensive and it's excellent. Sometimes we need more. Reach out, please. You have... we have time to reach out, to ask questions, to get clarity from the mayor's office. Hopefully today is not the day where we're asking those questions, live in a meeting. Reach out, ask those questions. If you want more, then we can put a late file in and discuss it more in committee.

Councillor Merkl: For clarity you mean to pass it, but put in a late file to have a meeting on the Salem Skipper.

Councillor Holapa: Just to clarify the point I made earlier, I'm going to read a sentence from the backup here. The Transportation Department is continuing to pursue additional grant and funding sources for the service, and we are reviewing options for possible sustainable funding streams on a more permanent basis. Once those are more refined, we expect to propose a plan to the City Council. Just for reference I don't think it does any good to reach out to the Transportation Department to ask for the thing that they're telling us they don't have ready yet. I think my main gripe with this is the fact that this is coming to us 5 days before the contract is done, and this part hasn't been done, and that is frustrating to... to be in this position where we're not able to really review these more sustainable funding streams, as part of this long-term discussion.

Councillor Merkl called a point of order for the rest of this being under discussion. Please refrain from characterizations of city departments, and return to the matter before that, which is voting on this matter.

Councillor Flynn: I think, as a council, I have a hard time voting on something that we don't have all the information on. I think the skipper is a good thing, and people need it. But also, as elected officials, I feel a responsibility not to vote for something blindly. But also, as elected officials, I feel a responsibility not to vote for something blindly.

#467 SALEM'S HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

The following order from the Mayor was adopted.

ORDERED: That the City Council hereby approves and adopts the submittal of the City of Salem's Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, as prepared and submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

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#468- Sustainability, Energy and Resiliency Committee (SERC) revised Mission Statement

The following update from the Mayor was Received and Filed.

The City of Salem's Sustainability, Energy and Resiliency Committee (SERC) revised its Mission Statement. The original statement was written before the City created and staffed its Sustainability and Resiliency Department. For Informational Purposes Only.

#469-RESOLUTION HONORING ILENE SIMONS - RETIRED CITY CLERK

The following Resolution Honoring retired City Clerk Ilene Simons was adopted by a Roll Call Vote of 10-0-1. Councillor Prrosniewski was recorded as absent.

RESOLUTION HONORING ILENE SIMONS - Retired City Clerk

WHEREAS, Ilene Simons has devoted more than twenty-five years of service to the City of Salem and its residents, including service as Assistant City Clerk and, since 2018, as City Clerk; and

WHEREAS, throughout her career, Ilene has served the people of Salem with professionalism, integrity, patience, good humor, and an unwavering dedication to public service; and

WHEREAS, as City Clerk and Salem's Chief Election Official, Ilene has overseen the fair, accurate, and orderly administration of our elections, faithfully safeguarding the democratic process and ensuring that Salem's residents can exercise their most fundamental civic right with confidence; and

WHEREAS, Ilene has been a trusted partner, confidant, counselor, and mentor to countless City Councillors, providing guidance rooted in deep institutional knowledge, sound judgment, and an enduring respect for the responsibilities of public office; and

WHEREAS, through decades of service at the center of municipal government, Ilene has become a steward of the City Council's institutional memory and a guardian of Salem's civic history, customs, and traditions, preserving the continuity of an institution that extends far beyond any individual elected official; and

WHEREAS, over those many years, Ilene has seen the full range of Salem's famously engaged civic life, and has met it all with patience, steadiness, discretion, and good humor; and

WHEREAS, her dedication to the City Council, City government, Salem's residents, and the democratic institutions we share represents the very best of public service;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Salem City Council, on behalf of the residents of the City of Salem, expresses its profound gratitude to Ilene Simons for her extraordinary service and for the wisdom, integrity, steadiness, and friendship she has brought to City Hall throughout her distinguished career; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Salem City Council extends its warmest congratulations to Ilene upon her retirement and its sincere wishes for happiness and fulfillment in the years ahead.

Discussion

Councillor Hapworth: Just really appreciate Ilene for all the years of service she gave to the City Council. It is not an easy job serving 11 bosses, and trying to figure out what the, priorities are, while serving the public in a very public-facing role in elections. Every city clerk we've had, we appreciate. Ilene, gave 25 years of service, to the city. And we just appreciate everything she did for us, and everything she did for us individually. A lot of us couldn't do it without a good city clerk. so just appreciate her and her, wish her the best in her retirement.

Councillor Flynn: I want to thank the good at large councilor for bringing this in. I wanted to bring this in next month, but I'm glad you did it now. This is well-deserved. I was very fortunate, I think I'm... I am the only one here that was on the council when we appointed Ilene in 2018. And I have seen her do a really good job. I've always said that the city clerk's position is kind of like the heart beat to City Hall. Everything seems to go through the city clerk's position. It is extremely important. And even though the clerk does work for us. She definitely guides us at our meetings and how things, continue. And I want to wish her a really, really long, happy, healthy retirement. She earned it. I love resolutions like this, where we recognize our citizens and our city employees that have really done something spectacular in Salem, and in my mind, Ilene Simons is one of them. I've always kind of followed our city clerks. I got to know some of them, Josephine Fusco, Deborah Birkinshaw. Cheryl Lapointe, and now Ilene Simons on... and that's kind of like my, superstar, all-star list there. There's been a ton of great city clerks, but I've got to know these... these individuals, and I think the most important thing we should never forget as a council is that each one learned from the previous one. I think that's very important, because if you break that chain. You're losing tradition, and you're losing history, and I don't ever want that to happen. I hope we can continue with tradition. And again, Ilene, I wish you the very best. Thank you, and did a great job. Well done. Thank you. Thank you.

#470- ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW FOR REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS OF ZONING REGULATIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

The following Order introduced by Councillor Smith was adopted.

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ORDERED: that the Committee on Ordinances, Licenses and Legal Affairs co-posted with the Committee of the Whole to meet to discuss Administrative Review for Reasonable Accommodations in their land use and zoning regulations for individuals with disabilities.

#471- ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MEET TO DISCUSS SKIPPER PROGRAM-LATE FILE

Councillor Varela submitted the following Order as a late file.

The Committee on Administration and Finance co-posted with the committee of the whole meet to discuss the Skipper Program and any contracts with Avia Transportation Incorporate DBA River North Transit LLC of New York for an on demand ride share program.

It was voted to accept the late file and the order

#472 RECONSIDERATION OF THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 CITY SEAL REPORT VOTE- LATE FILE

Councillor Flynn submitted the following motion as a late file. The Motion was accepted.

Councillor Flynn motioned for a suspension of the rules at the next City Council Meeting on October 8, 2026 to take a reconsideration vote on the motion for reconsideration of the City Council's September 10, 2026 vote to adopt the recommendation of the City Seal Task Force.

#473- ORDINANCE AMENDMENT RELATIVE TO LIVING WAGE REQUIREMENT

Councillor Varela offered the following report for the Committee on Ordinances, License and Legal Affairs Co-Posted with the Committee of the Whole to whom the matter was referred the matter relative to an Ordinance Amendment Relative to Living Wage Requirement for the City of Salem. It was voted to accept the report and discharge the matter from the Committee.

Has considered said matter and would recommend the matter be discharged from the committee

#473- CAMPING ORDINANCE REVIEW AND UPDATES FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Councillor Hapworth offered the following report of the Committee on Public Health, Safety and Environment co-posted with the Committee of the Whole to whom was

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referred the matter of The Camping Ordinance to review the policy and get updates from our police department.

Has considered said matter and would recommend: the matter remain in Committee

Discussion:

Councillor Hapworth: Thanked everyone in the committee and in the Committee of the Whole for the conversation that was had. I thought it was thoughtful, respectful and productive conversation on what is a charged topic in many, many cities across this country. I want to thank, the police department for a very professional and thorough presentation. Also, I just, I think that going back to 2024, I think we continue, To discuss this matter, even though we may disagree on policy, I think we continue to discuss this matter, in a way that centers our unhoused neighbors. And again, I think that... I think we have disagreements on policy and the best way to address them, but going back to 2024, when we first started this conversation. forward to today, I think we're a rare city that... that centers The most marginalized in our community in that conversation. And there are no easy answers here, and I think we're lucky to have the Salem Community Impact Unit (CIU) and the work that they do, which has been on the ground for almost 20 years now. trying to work in an often impossible situation to help every single individual in Salem on an individual basis. So just appreciate the committee for the conversation, appreciate the tone of the conversation, and appreciate everyone in Salem who's working to make this, this situation, better, or easier, or just, less impossible.

Councillor Davis: I thought it was a great meeting. It was great to hear an update. I'm glad that that kind of we're maintaining that as an annual kind of check-in. The Q&A was really helpful. just wanted to name, I guess, a couple things that have kind of... Been on my mind as we have these conversations, about how to deal with this issue. One of them being, I think, There's a difficulty in... A lot of the conversations happened recently, where it's not possible for us to abide by the kind of principle of A lot of nothing about us without us, right? During the City seal conversation, you know, we're not fortunate to have the AAPI community representing this council. During this conversation, you know, we don't have the perspective of someone that's unhoused on this council. it is what it is, I just want to kind of, name that, and I think that it gives us, all... More of a responsibility to make sure that we are having conversations with unhoused people and advocates of unhoused people. I think that's a hard thing to do, when our circles and the people that tend to reach out to us and people with homes. We saw a lot of, I think, pictures and videos at the presentation last night. Of people that are unhoused, With, with substance abuse disorders, engage in, domestic kind of disputes. I understand the context of why these things were brought up. I think it's important to, I think, just contextualize that and... Remember that these things happen also in the homes. Of people that are housed. We just... don't have pictures and videos of it. It goes on without us knowing, in the private lives of people. I point that out because I think very easily in

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these conversations we can get to a level unintentionally where we... where dehumanization happens. When we're painting...generalizations in a picture of people. There was a...statistic, or I guess I'd say more of kind of a guesstimate that was mentioned last night, that perhaps 70% of people that are unhoused suffer from substance abuse. The Mental Health Services Administration statistics show that it's more like 38% of unhoused people struggle with, alcohol abuse, while 26% abuse or misuse other drugs, which is a quite different, number. And that actually two-thirds of those with substance abuse issues developed a problem after they became homeless. So I think that just... it kind of speaks to dispelling this kind of...Notion that people tend to have that, that either...Addiction problems lead to homelessness, or that the vast majority of people that are homeless, suffer from those issues, neither of which are true. And it's also really interesting how... how few... how many people are shocked by the statistic that around 50% of people who are unhoused are employed. So I think just... just...Being accurate and, and, and contextualizing, That is, is very important. to kind of not give in to those kinds of generalizations, so... wanted to put that out there.

Councillor Holappa: I was really grateful to have that conversation last night. I want to mention for the sake of the folks at home who aren't here, like, you know, the room was packed. It was full of folks that feel very...Passionately about this complicated topic. And one of the takeaways that I had from both the presentation and from talking to some folks afterwards is that, again, folks care a lot about this, and to paraphrase one of the slides from the police department presentation. There are, you know, ongoing issues that are still... are still persisting. We learned that the number of unhoused folks in the city have probably doubled over the last year, or the last two years, excuse me. Incident reports that they respond to are still on the rise. There are ongoing concerns about, It's the right word for it. I think, belongings that are left in public spaces. And whether or not, like, those are at first glance safe. I had an issue with that in my ward a few weeks ago, where there was something that was left in an area that I had heard reports that there was some drug activity in the area, so I did call the CIU to come help me with that, and I was very grateful for that. And I'm looking forward to the conversation we're going to have about amendments to the camping ordinance, but I also really think that And I'm looking forward to the conversation we're going to have about amendments to the camping ordinance, but I also really think that you know, this is, of course, a large and complicated issue that I don't think anyone has really solved yet, but I'm really open to ideas from, other counselors about how we can try to continue that conversation, separate from the camping conversation. How can we Have conversations about how to deal with some of the impact that our housed and unhoused residents are facing. My takeaway from the meeting was that the... I think that very clearly, the camping ordinance is not fully achieving the hope, which I don't think anyone fully believed that it was going to solve homelessness, right? I remember hearing, listening to committee meetings at the last session of Council, that it was an acknowledgement that this was not going to solve everything. But I do really want to have those conversations. I think those conversations are probably more valuable than the conversations around this specific ordinance. And I'm open to thoughts about process and solution.

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Councillor Flynn: I also, I just want to go on the record to say that, it was really an eye-opening meeting last night, and the presentation from the police. you know, here in the offices, say, besides Lynn, Salem on the North Shore is one of the most affected with unhoused population. So, you know. Chief Miller, Captain Burke, and his staff. I can't imagine what they go through daily, and I'm glad that the previous Council came up with the camping ordinance to want to give them some tools. Cause it seems like they really did make a difference to a lot of people, and placed a lot of people as well. And, I can't imagine without that, how they would be able to do their job. So, again, once again, I want to give a shout-out to our police department, and thank each of the offices for all they do.

#475 NAMING THE NEW VETERAN SQUARE O'NEIL SQUARE

The following communication from the Veteran's Agent, Kim Emerling was adopted. Communication from Veteran's Agent Kim Emerling requesting Councils consideration for the naming of a new Veteran Square - O'Neil Square: to be located at the corner of Lafayette Street and College Drive in Ward 7. US Army Captain Walter C. O'Neil resided at 386 Lafayette Street prior to his enlistment. He was employed at the Monroe and Arnold-Merritt Express company and was a Salem Police Reserve officer.

Discussion:

Councillor Varela: I want to thank our Veteran Agent Kim Emerling for his consideration and diligence on making sure we're thoughtful about honoring our veterans here in Salem.

**#476 -TRAFFIC ORDINANCE SECTION 20A DODGE STREET ONE-WAY
EXPERIMENTAL**

Councillor King moved that the following order be tabled.

ORDERED: Per Salem's Traffic Ordinance Section 20A – Experimental regulations for the purpose of trial, Dodge Street shall be one-way in an east bound direction from Dodge Street Court to Lafayette Street. This condition will be in effect from October 1 to October 31, 2026.

Discussion:

Councillor King: this matter is related to the next agenda item, which is related to taxi, rideshare pickup, and drop-off activities, which I'm a huge fan of, very excited about us pursuing that as a city. The issue with this particular street is that turning it one way could possibly impact the businesses, and there's also an apartment building that's kind of right on the street, and none of the businesses or residents were necessarily informed or consulted about, this happening, and while I understand it's just a one-month trial, it is also the busiest month of the year for all those businesses, so I spoke

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with Director Kucharski earlier today and basically indicated that I would be pushing to table it so we could have a chance to talk to those businesses and warn them about it. And then we can bring this back at our meeting in the middle of October, and then they can do the trial for the back half of October, essentially, and he was fine with that solution, Just wanted to make sure that the businesses have enough time to be aware and prepare for that, change to the traffic pattern on their street.

#476 DESIGNATED TAXI AND RIDESHARE PICK UP/ DROP OFF LOCATIONS

The following Order was adopted.

ORDERED: That the following locations identified below shall be designated for Taxi and Rideshare Pick-up/Drop-off activities:

North Street – October Weekend Pick-up/Drop-off Established– 3 perpendicular spaces located adjacent to the North Street Bridge and 4 Franklin Street. October 1 to October 31. Saturday through Sunday

Green Trail – October Weekend Pick-up/Drop-off Established – approximately 6 curbside spaces located in a cul-de-sac adjacent to Leslie’s Retreat. October 1 to October 31. Saturday through Sunday

Margin Street – October Weekend Pick-up/Drop-off Established – westerly side, beginning at the intersection with High Street and extending in a southerly direction for approximately one-hundred twenty-five (125) feet. October 1 to October 31. Saturday through Sunday

Dodge Street – October Weekend Pick-up/Drop-off Established – northerly side, beginning at the intersection with Dodge Street Court and extending in an easterly direction for approximately one-hundred forty (140) feet. October 1 to October 31. Saturday through Sunday

Old Salem Jail Lot – October Weekend Pick-up/Drop-off Established – non-metered parking areas located in the parking lots cul-de-sac. October 1 to October 31. Saturday through Sunday

Discussion:

Councillor Hapworth: This could have come out to us as an ordinance. It came out as an order for a trial period this October on Saturdays and Sundays. The issues we run into with rideshares and taxi is that we close streets. We are already closing streets by mid September. This is the earliest I think that we have been closing a vast majority of the downtown streets. But it makes it very, very difficult for rideshare pickups, so establishing set places for those to happen. Uber and Lyft have already been notified and apparently are able to make that adjustment for the month of October. It was also discussed and adopted by the Transportation Department.

Councillor Smith: This is fantastic downtown. I think it's something that people have been asking for a long time, similar to an airport, or similar to any other... any venue

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and event where there would be set zones, people can go there, and then the cars aren't thinking they can get downtown and getting stopped at a gate and trying to turn around. So I'm so thrilled that they brought this in and I am hoping this trial goes well. I am very hopeful.

**#478 PLANNING BOARD REPORT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 3.1
TABLE OF USE DATA CENTERS**

A report from the Planning Board regarding Zoning: Proposed Amendment to Section 3.1 Table of Uses: Data Centers was received and filed

#385 Section I. Section 3.1 Table of Principal and Accessory Use Regulations of the City of Salem Zoning Ordinance is hereby amended by adding in Section D Industrial Uses, after "Contractor's yard; landscaping business", the following, shown in underlined and italics:

Section II. Section 10.0 Definitions is hereby amended by inserting the following definition after the definition for "COOP":

Data Center: A facility, or portion thereof, primarily designed or used to house computer servers and related information technology infrastructure for the storage, processing, management, or transmission of electronic data. A Data Center may include, but is not limited to, server racks, data storage systems, cooling systems, power conditioning equipment, substations, uninterruptible power supplies, backup generators, telecommunications equipment, security systems, and associated mechanical and electrical infrastructure. For purposes of this ordinance, a Data Center shall not be considered an Office, Warehouse, Manufacturing, or Research use. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, Data Centers are prohibited in each and every underlying district, overlay district and special district of this Ordinance.

#480 2026 STATE ELECTION ORDER GENERAL ELECTION

Acting City Clerk, Maureen Elizabeth Fisher, submitting the 2026 State Election Order:

City of Salem Election Warrant 2026 State Election/ Ciudad de Salem
 Orden de elecciones Elecciones estatales de 2026

In City Council, September 24, 2026 En Ayuntamiento 24 de Septiembre, 2026

ORDERED: That the meetings of the qualified voters of the City of Salem be held in the several voting precincts in the City at the polling places designated hereinafter on Tuesday, November 3, 2026 for the purpose of casting votes in the State Election for the candidates of political parties for the following offices:

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ORDENO: Que las reuniones de los votantes calificados de la Ciudad de Salem se lleven a cabo en los distintos precintos de votación de la Ciudad en los lugares de votación designados de aquí en adelante el martes 3 de Noviembre de 2026, con el fin de emitir votos en las Elecciones Primarias Estatales para los candidatos de los partidos políticos para los siguientes cargos:

SENATOR IN CONGRESS For this Commonwealth/ SENADOR EN EL CONGRESO PARA ESTA MANCOMUNIDAD

GOVERNOR For this Commonwealth/ GOBERNADOR PARA ESTA MANCOMUNIDAD

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR For this Commonwealth/ VICEGOBERNADOR PARA ESTA MANCOMUNIDAD

ATTORNEY GENERAL For this Commonwealth/ MINISTRO DE JUSTICIA PARA ESTA MANCOMUNIDAD

SECRETARY OF STATE For this Commonwealth/ SECRETARIO DE ESTADO PARA ESTA MANCOMUNIDAD

TREASURER For this Commonwealth/ TESORERO PARA ESTA MANCOMUNIDAD

AUDITOR For this Commonwealth/ AUDITOR PARA ESTA MANCOMUNIDAD

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS Sixth DISTRICT/ REPRESENTANTE EN EL CONGRESO PARA SEXTO DISTRITO

COUNCILLOR Fifth DISTRICT/ CONCEJAL PARA QUINTO DISTRITO

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT Second Essex DISTRICT/ SENADOR DE LA LEGISLATURA ESTATAL PARA DISTRITO SEGUNDO DE ESSEX

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT Seventh Essex DISTRICT/ REPRESENTANTE DE LA LEGISLATURA ESTATAL PARA DISTRITO SEPTIMO DE ESSEX

DISTRICT ATTORNEY Eastern DISTRICT/ FISCAL DE DISTRITO PARA DISTRITO ESTE

REGISTER OF PROBATE Essex COUNTY/ REGISTRO DE SUCESIONES PARA CONDADO DE ESSEX

QUESTION 1 LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2026?

Summary

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This proposed law would make most records held by the Legislature and the Office of the Governor public records under the Massachusetts Public Records Law. This proposed law would exempt documents related to the development of public policy and communications between legislators and their constituents, if those communications are reasonably related to a constituent's request for assistance in obtaining government-provided benefits or services or interacting with a government agency.

A YES VOTE would make most records held by the Legislature and the Office of the Governor public records under the Massachusetts Public Records Law.

A NO VOTE would make no change to the Massachusetts Public Records Law.

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QUESTION 2 LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2026?

Summary

This proposed law would specify that employees of the Committee for Public Counsel Services ("CPCS") are permitted to engage in collective bargaining with their employer. It would also require CPCS, after executing a collective bargaining agreement, to request the appropriation necessary to fund such agreement from the Governor.

A YES VOTE would specify that Committee for Public Counsel Services employees may form a union to collectively bargain with their employer.

A NO VOTE would make no change to the law governing labor relations for Committee for Public Counsel Service employees.

QUESTION 3 LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2026?

Summary

This proposed law would eliminate political party primaries for state elections and instead establish a system where there would be a single, all-party primary in which all candidates, regardless of their party affiliation, would be listed on one ballot, and voters could vote for

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any candidate on the ballot. The two candidates receiving the most votes in the primary would advance to the general election ballot.

This proposed law would require candidates for governor and lieutenant governor to run and be listed jointly on the ballot in the primary.

This proposed law would provide political party status to any group whose candidates for any statewide office received at least 3% of the ballots cast in the state primary.

A YES VOTE would eliminate separate party primaries for state elections and require a single primary in which all candidates appear on one ballot, voters could vote for any candidate, and the top two candidates would advance to the general election.

A NO VOTE would make no change to the laws governing primary elections.

QUESTION 4 LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2026?

Summary

This proposed law would permit eligible individuals to register to vote or update their voter registration address on Election Day.

An individual who is eligible to vote could register to vote on Election Day by going to the polling place in the precinct where they live during voting hours and presenting proof of residency and signing a written oath. Proof of residency could be a valid photo identification, or documentation showing the individual's name and the address where the individual resides, such as a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, residential lease, wireless telephone statement, paycheck, current student fee statement or other document from a post-secondary school, or another government document or correspondence. The written oath would require the individual to certify that they are a citizen of the United States, are at least 18 years old, are not legally prohibited from voting, and have not and will not vote in the same election at another location. The oath would require the individual to acknowledge that providing false information is a felony punishable by not more than 5 years imprisonment or a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

If an individual did not present proof of residency, they would be allowed to cast a provisional ballot, which would be counted only if the individual returned to provide the required information before the close of polls for a municipal election; within two days after a state primary; or within six days after a state election.

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Individuals who register to vote on Election Day would be registered to vote in future elections as well as in the election taking place that day.

Individuals who are already registered to vote would not be able to change their political party affiliation on Election Day.

The proposed law would take effect on January 1, 2028.

A YES VOTE would permit eligible citizens to register to vote or to update their voter registration address at their polling place on Election Day.

A NO VOTE would make no change to the laws governing voter registration.

QUESTION 5 LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2026?

Summary

This proposed law would change the limit on how much revenue the state can collect in a given year. The proposal would limit state revenue in a given year to the net amount of state revenue from the year before, increased by a rate equal to the average growth of wages and salaries in Massachusetts over the most recent three years. If revenue collected by the state in a given year exceeds the limit, the excess amount would be refunded to taxpayers the following year. The proposed law would include all revenue from the surtax on incomes over \$1 million when calculating the revenue limit and when determining whether state revenue exceeds the limit.

The provisions of the proposed law would all be effective as of July 1, 2027.

The proposed law states that, if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.

A YES VOTE would change the limit on state revenue collection, tying it to prior year collections plus average wage and salary growth, and provide for a rebate of revenue exceeding that limit.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the law relative to state revenue collection.

QUESTION 6 LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2026?

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Summary

This proposed law would establish a Nature for All Fund that, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, would receive 50% of state taxes collected from the sale and use of sporting goods, recreational vehicles, and golf courses for the first year of its operation. After July 1, 2028, the Nature for All Fund would begin receiving, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, 100% of state taxes collected on the sale and use of sporting goods, recreational vehicles, and golf courses. The sales tax revenue received by the Nature for All Fund would exclude sales tax revenue transferred to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority State and Local Contribution Fund and the School Modernization and Reconstruction Trust Fund. The proposed law would allow the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to spend the money in the Nature for All Fund for natural resource conservation.

The proposed law would allow public and private donations to the Nature for All Fund. The proposed law would prevent the state comptroller from transferring surplus funds in the Nature for All Fund at the end of the fiscal year. It would also allow state agencies, municipalities, public charities involved in natural resource conservation, tribal governments, and other regional public entities to receive money from the Nature for All Fund.

Natural resource conservation would include the conservation or restoration of land to protect drinking water, streams, rivers, lakes, coasts, farms, forests, connectivity between open spaces, and lands and natural resources of indigenous cultural significance. Natural resource conservation would also include the creation, improvement, and management of parks, trails, greenspaces or outdoor recreation access.

The proposed law would establish a 15-member Nature for All Board that consists of five state officials and ten members of the public appointed by the Governor. The proposed law would require the ten members of the public to include representatives of underserved communities and indigenous peoples and at least one person with expertise or experience in natural resource conservation. The proposed law would allow the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to spend money from the Nature for All Fund to hire staff to manage the fund. The proposed law would also require the Nature for All Board to establish rules about how the money in the Nature for All Fund should be spent, including rules regarding alignment with environmental justice principles, access to and restoration of lands and natural resources of indigenous cultural significance, promotion of affordable housing development, and other matters regarding spending and bond issuance.

The proposed law would require the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to submit an annual report to various state committees regarding the funds spent to buy or improve land in cities and towns containing environmental justice populations.

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The proposed law would take effect on July 1, 2027.

A YES VOTE would create a fund that could be utilized for natural resource conservation that would receive some state taxes collected on the sale and use of sporting goods and recreational vehicles, and the use of golf courses.

A NO VOTE would not create this natural resource conservation fund or change how sales and use taxes are spent.

QUESTION 7 LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2026?

Summary

This proposed law would allow single-family homes to be built in a residentially zoned area as long as the land on which it is to be constructed is at least 5,000 square feet, has at least 50 feet of land bordering the street, road, or public way that it faces, and has access to public sewer and water services.

The proposed law would allow cities and towns to reasonably regulate certain aspects of those single-family homes, including their height, distance from neighboring buildings, open space, parking requirements, and whether they can be rented out on a short-term basis. The proposed law would also allow the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to issue guidance or regulations to administer the proposed law.

A YES VOTE would allow single-family homes to be built on lots of 5,000 square feet or more in residential areas, subject to reasonable local regulation of certain aspects of those homes. A NO VOTE would make no change to the law relative to building single-family homes.

A NO VOTE would make no change to the law relative to building single-family homes.

QUESTION 8 LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 6, 2026?

Summary

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The proposed law would change the type and amount of marijuana that may legally be possessed in Massachusetts by repealing the laws that legalize, regulate, and tax the retail sale of adult recreational use marijuana in Massachusetts. The proposed law would also permit persons 21 years of age and older to possess 1 ounce or less of marijuana including no more than 5 grams in the form of concentrate, and to gift or transfer to another person 21 years of age and older 1 ounce or less of marijuana including no more than 5 grams in the form of concentrate. The proposed law would also impose a civil penalty of \$100 and forfeiture of the marijuana for the possession of marijuana between the weight of 1 and 2 ounces.

For persons 21 years of age and younger, the proposed law would make the possession of 2 ounces or less of marijuana a civil infraction subject to a \$100 fine, forfeiture of the marijuana, completion of a drug awareness program and community service, and notification to their parents or legal guardian of the offense and penalties.

The proposed law would allow currently licensed adult recreational marijuana businesses to apply on an expedited basis to become a licensed medical marijuana dispensary and to sell their remaining inventory of adult recreational marijuana to medical marijuana dispensaries. The proposed law would retain the Cannabis Control Commission but modify its authority so it would regulate only the medical marijuana market.

The proposed law states that, if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.

The proposed law would take effect on January 1, 2028.

A YES VOTE would prohibit the legalization, regulation, and taxation of the retail sale of adult recreational use marijuana, and change the penalties for possession of marijuana.

A NO VOTE would make no change to the law relative to marijuana.

QUESTION 9 LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, which was approved by the House of Representatives on July 18, 2024 by a vote of 124 to 33, and approved by the Senate on July 18, 2024 by a vote of 35 to 5?

Summary

This law makes a number of changes to Massachusetts laws governing firearms.

The law adds school administrators and licensed healthcare providers as parties permitted to ask a court to issue an Extreme Risk Protection Order – requiring an individual to surrender or relinquish their firearm licenses, permits, and firearms - if an individual is a

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present danger to self or others. The law also provides that, when issuing an Harassment Prevention Order, a court may also order the surrender of firearms licenses, permits, and firearms.

The law imposes penalties for possessing, creating, and transferring untraceable “ghost gun” firearms and requires all firearms except antiques and relics, including unfinished frames and receivers that can be readily made into a finished product, to have serial numbers. The law includes privately-made guns like 3D-printed guns within the provisions governing untraceable “ghost gun” firearms.

The law changes firearms licensing requirements to: (1) allow local licensing authorities to request prior license and permit information from the state, as well as access petitions for involuntary mental health commitments denied by a court in addition to prior involuntary commitments, as a part of their review of applications for licenses to carry firearms, firearm ID cards, and licenses to sell firearms; (2) require an individual to be 21 years of age to own semiautomatic rifles or shotguns; (3) add the possibility of incarceration of up to six months for a second offense of failing to report a firearm loss or theft; and (4) enable 12-15 year olds to apply for a self-defense spray permit with parental permission, and 15 to 18 year olds to apply independently.

The law allows local firearm licensing authorities to transfer the responsibility to inspect firearm dealers to the State Police. The law requires local licensing authorities to attend statewide training regarding those inspections. It requires dealers to confiscate expired or suspended licenses and report them to the state and to local licensing authorities.

The law changes the definition of “machine gun” to include bump stocks, trigger cranks, Glock switches and auto sears among the devices whose possession and use are subject to penalties. It expands the definition of “silencer” to include the parts used to construct a silencer.

The law clarifies how to determine whether a firearm is an assault-style weapon and the circumstances under which a person may continue to possess assault-style weapons and large capacity feeding devices they already own.

The law requires the state Firearm Control Advisory Board and the state Secretary of Public Safety and Security to review and update the rosters of prohibited assault-style firearms, approved firearms, and approved firearms sold for target shooting.

The law clarifies requirements relating to the carry and transport of firearms in motor vehicles and ATVs. It prohibits the carrying of firearms in government buildings, polling locations, and schools, with certain exceptions.

The law expands data compilation and reporting requirements to and from the state, and creates a publicly-accessible dashboard of anonymized aggregate firearm data, along with a commission to study that data.

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The law requires the State Police to provide training and a test for new applicants for licenses to carry or Firearm ID cards.

The law establishes two special legislative commissions – one to examine funding for violence prevention services, and one to study emerging firearms technology.

The law criminalizes discharging a firearm and striking a building in use.

A YES VOTE would keep in place the law, which increases the regulation of firearms, including ghost guns, machine guns, and assault-style weapons.

A NO VOTE would repeal this law.

Preguntas de la boleta electoral estatal de 2026

PREGUNTA 1 LEY PROPUESTA MEDIANTE PETICIÓN DE INICIATIVA POPULAR

Aprueba usted la ley que se resume a continuación, sobre la cual ni el Senado ni la Cámara de Representantes votaron antes del 6 de mayo de 2026?

Resumen

Este proyecto de ley convertiría la mayoría de los documentos en poder de la Legislatura y la Oficina del Gobernador en documentos públicos conforme a la Ley de Registros Públicos de Massachusetts. Esta propuesta eximiría los documentos relacionados con la elaboración de políticas públicas y las comunicaciones entre los legisladores y sus electores, siempre que dichas comunicaciones guarden una relación razonable con la solicitud de asistencia de un elector para obtener beneficios o servicios gubernamentales o para interactuar con una agencia gubernamental.

Un voto afirmativo convertiría la mayoría de los documentos en poder de la Legislatura y la Oficina del Gobernador en documentos públicos, de conformidad con la Ley de Registros Públicos de Massachusetts.

Un voto negativo no supondría ningún cambio en la Ley de Registros Públicos de Massachusetts.

PREGUNTA 2 LEY PROPUESTA MEDIANTE PETICIÓN DE INICIATIVA POPULAR

¿Aprueba usted la ley que se resume a continuación, sobre la cual ni el Senado ni la Cámara de Representantes votaron antes del 6 de mayo de 2026?

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Resumen

Este proyecto de ley especificaría que los empleados del Comité de Servicios de Asesoría Jurídica Pública (CPCS) tienen permitido negociar colectivamente con su empleador. Asimismo, exigiría que, tras la firma de un convenio colectivo, el CPCS solicite al Gobernador la asignación presupuestaria necesaria para financiar dicho convenio.

Un voto afirmativo especificaría que los empleados del Comité de Servicios de Asesoría Jurídica Pública pueden formar un sindicato para negociar colectivamente con su empleador.

Un voto negativo no supondría ningún cambio en la ley que rige las relaciones laborales de los empleados del Comité del Servicio de Asesoría Jurídica Pública.

PREGUNTA 3 LEY PROPUESTA MEDIANTE PETICIÓN DE INICIATIVA POPULAR

¿Aprueba usted la ley que se resume a continuación, sobre la cual ni el Senado ni la Cámara de Representantes votaron antes del 6 de mayo de 2026?

Resumen

Esta propuesta de ley eliminaría las primarias de los partidos políticos en las elecciones estatales y, en su lugar, establecería un sistema de primarias únicas para todos los partidos, en las que todos los candidatos, independientemente de su afiliación partidista, aparecerían en una sola papeleta, y los votantes podrían votar por cualquiera de ellos. Los dos candidatos que obtuvieran la mayor cantidad de votos en las primarias pasarían a la votación de las elecciones generales.

Este proyecto de ley exigiría que los candidatos a gobernador y vicegobernador se presenten a las elecciones y aparezcan juntos en la papeleta de votación en las primarias.

Este proyecto de ley otorgaría estatus de partido político a cualquier grupo cuyos candidatos a cualquier cargo estatal recibieran al menos el 3% de los votos emitidos en las primarias estatales.

Un voto afirmativo eliminaría las primarias separadas de los partidos para las elecciones estatales y requeriría una sola primaria en la que todos los candidatos aparecerían en una sola papeleta, los votantes podrían votar por cualquier candidato y los dos candidatos más votados pasarían a las elecciones generales.

Un voto negativo no supondría ningún cambio en las leyes que rigen las elecciones primarias.

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PREGUNTA 4 LEY PROPUESTA MEDIANTE PETICIÓN DE INICIATIVA POPULAR

¿Aprueba usted la ley que se resume a continuación, sobre la cual ni el Senado ni la Cámara de Representantes votaron antes del 6 de mayo de 2026?

Resumen

Este proyecto de ley permitiría a las personas que cumplan los requisitos registrarse para votar o actualizar su dirección de registro electoral el día de las elecciones.

Una persona con derecho a voto puede registrarse para votar el día de las elecciones acudiendo al centro de votación de su distrito electoral durante el horario de votación, presentando un comprobante de domicilio y firmando una declaración jurada. El comprobante de domicilio puede ser una identificación con fotografía válida o documentación que muestre el nombre y la dirección de residencia, como una factura de servicios públicos, un extracto bancario, un cheque del gobierno, un contrato de alquiler, un estado de cuenta de teléfono móvil, un recibo de nómina, un estado de cuenta de matrícula estudiantil u otro documento de una institución de educación superior, o cualquier otro documento o correspondencia gubernamental. La declaración jurada requiere que la persona certifique que es ciudadana de los Estados Unidos, tiene al menos 18 años, no tiene prohibido votar por ley y no ha votado ni votará en las mismas elecciones en otro lugar. La declaración jurada también requiere que la persona reconozca que proporcionar información falsa es un delito grave punible con hasta 5 años de prisión o una multa de hasta \$10,000, o ambas.

Si una persona no presentaba prueba de residencia, se le permitiría emitir un voto provisional, que solo se contaría si la persona regresaba para proporcionar la información requerida antes del cierre de las urnas en una elección municipal; dentro de los dos días posteriores a una elección primaria estatal; o dentro de los seis días posteriores a una elección estatal.

Las personas que se registren para votar el día de las elecciones quedarán registradas para votar en futuras elecciones, así como en las que se celebren ese mismo día.

Las personas que ya estén inscritas en el censo electoral no podrán cambiar su afiliación política el día de las elecciones.

El proyecto de ley entraría en vigor el 1 de enero de 2028.

Un voto afirmativo permitiría a los ciudadanos elegibles registrarse para votar o actualizar su dirección de registro electoral en su centro de votación el día de las elecciones.

Un voto negativo no modificaría las leyes que rigen el registro de votantes.

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PREGUNTA 5 LEY PROPUESTA MEDIANTE PETICIÓN DE INICIATIVA POPULAR

¿Aprueba usted la ley que se resume a continuación, sobre la cual ni el Senado ni la Cámara de Representantes votaron antes del 6 de mayo de 2026?

Resumen

Esta propuesta de ley modificaría el límite de ingresos que el estado puede recaudar anualmente. La propuesta limitaría los ingresos estatales a la cantidad neta del año anterior, incrementada en una tasa equivalente al crecimiento promedio de los sueldos y salarios en Massachusetts durante los últimos tres años. Si los ingresos recaudados por el estado en un año determinado superan el límite, el excedente se reembolsaría a los contribuyentes al año siguiente. La propuesta de ley incluiría todos los ingresos provenientes del recargo sobre las rentas superiores a un millón de dólares al calcular el límite de ingresos y al determinar si los ingresos estatales lo superan.

Todas las disposiciones del proyecto de ley entrarían en vigor el 1 de julio de 2027.

El proyecto de ley establece que, si alguna de sus partes fuera declarada inválida, las demás partes seguirían vigentes.

Un voto afirmativo cambiaría el límite de recaudación de ingresos estatales, vinculándolo a la recaudación del año anterior más el crecimiento promedio de los salarios y sueldos, y preveía un reembolso de los ingresos que superen dicho límite.

Un voto negativo no supondría ningún cambio en la ley relativa a la recaudación de ingresos estatales.

PREGUNTA 6 LEY PROPUESTA MEDIANTE PETICIÓN DE INICIATIVA POPULAR

¿Aprueba usted la ley que se resume a continuación, sobre la cual ni el Senado ni la Cámara de Representantes votaron antes del 6 de mayo de 2026?

Resumen

Este proyecto de ley establecería un Fondo Naturaleza para Todos que, sujeto a la asignación presupuestaria de la Legislatura, recibiría el 50% de los impuestos estatales recaudados por la venta y el uso de artículos deportivos, vehículos recreativos y campos de golf durante su primer año de funcionamiento. Después del 1 de julio de 2028, el Fondo Naturaleza para Todos comenzaría a recibir, sujeto a la asignación presupuestaria de la Legislatura, el 100% de los impuestos estatales recaudados por la venta y el uso de artículos deportivos, vehículos recreativos y campos de golf. Los ingresos por impuestos sobre las ventas que reciba el Fondo Naturaleza para Todos excluirían los ingresos por

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impuestos sobre las ventas transferidos al Fondo de Contribuciones Estatales y Locales de la Autoridad de Transporte de la Bahía de Massachusetts y al Fondo Fiduciario para la Modernización y Reconstrucción Escolar. El proyecto de ley permitiría a la Oficina Ejecutiva Estatal de Energía y Asuntos Ambientales gastar el dinero del Fondo Naturaleza para Todos en la conservación de los recursos naturales.

El proyecto de ley permitiría donaciones públicas y privadas al Fondo Naturaleza para Todos. Además, impediría que el interventor estatal transfiriera los fondos sobrantes del Fondo Naturaleza para Todos al final del año fiscal. También permitiría que las agencias estatales, los municipios, las organizaciones benéficas públicas dedicadas a la conservación de los recursos naturales, los gobiernos tribales y otras entidades públicas regionales reciban dinero del Fondo Naturaleza para Todos.

La conservación de los recursos naturales abarca la preservación o restauración de tierras para proteger el agua potable, arroyos, ríos, lagos, costas, granjas, bosques, la conectividad entre espacios abiertos y tierras y recursos naturales de importancia cultural indígena. Asimismo, comprende la creación, mejora y gestión de parques, senderos, zonas verdes y accesos para la recreación al aire libre.

El proyecto de ley establecería una Junta de Naturaleza para Todos de 15 miembros, compuesta por cinco funcionarios estatales y diez ciudadanos designados por el Gobernador. Dicha junta requeriría que los diez ciudadanos incluyeran representantes de comunidades marginadas y pueblos indígenas, así como al menos una persona con experiencia o conocimientos en conservación de recursos naturales. El proyecto de ley autorizaría a la Oficina Ejecutiva Estatal de Energía y Asuntos Ambientales a utilizar fondos del Fondo Naturaleza para Todos para contratar personal que administre el fondo. Asimismo, exigiría que la Junta de Naturaleza para Todos estableciera normas sobre cómo se deben gastar los fondos, incluyendo normas relativas a la alineación con los principios de justicia ambiental, el acceso y la restauración de tierras y recursos naturales de importancia cultural indígena, la promoción del desarrollo de viviendas asequibles y otros asuntos relacionados con el gasto y la emisión de bonos.

El proyecto de ley exigiría que la Oficina Ejecutiva Estatal de Energía y Asuntos Ambientales presentara un informe anual a varios comités estatales sobre los fondos gastados en la compra o mejora de terrenos en ciudades y pueblos con poblaciones afectadas por la injusticia ambiental.

El proyecto de ley entraría en vigor el 1 de julio de 2027.

Un voto afirmativo crearía un fondo que podría utilizarse para la conservación de los recursos naturales y que recibiría parte de los impuestos estatales recaudados sobre la venta y el uso de artículos deportivos y vehículos recreativos, así como sobre el uso de campos de golf.

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Un voto negativo no crearía este fondo de conservación de recursos naturales ni cambiaría la forma en que se gastan los impuestos sobre las ventas y el uso.

PREGUNTA 7 LEY PROPUESTA MEDIANTE PETICIÓN DE INICIATIVA POPULAR

¿Aprueba usted la ley que se resume a continuación, sobre la cual ni el Senado ni la Cámara de Representantes votaron antes del 6 de mayo de 2026?

Resumen

Esta ley propuesta permitiría la construcción de viviendas unifamiliares en una zona residencial, siempre y cuando el terreno en el que se vaya a construir tenga al menos 5.000 pies cuadrados, cuente con al menos 50 pies de terreno que colinde con la calle, carretera o vía pública a la que da, y tenga acceso a los servicios públicos de alcantarillado y agua.

La ley propuesta permitiría a las ciudades y pueblos regular razonablemente ciertos aspectos de las viviendas unifamiliares, como su altura, la distancia a los edificios vecinos, los espacios abiertos, los requisitos de estacionamiento y si pueden alquilarse a corto plazo. Asimismo, la ley propuesta facultaría a la Oficina Ejecutiva de Vivienda y Comunidades Habitables para emitir directrices o reglamentos que la administren.

Un voto afirmativo permitiría la construcción de viviendas unifamiliares en lotes de 5000 pies cuadrados o más en zonas residenciales, sujetas a una regulación local razonable de ciertos aspectos de dichas viviendas. Un voto negativo no modificaría la ley relativa a la construcción de viviendas unifamiliares.

Un voto negativo no supondría ningún cambio en la ley relativa a la construcción de viviendas unifamiliares.

PREGUNTA 8 LEY PROPUESTA MEDIANTE PETICIÓN DE INICIATIVA POPULAR

¿Aprueba usted la ley que se resume a continuación, sobre la cual ni el Senado ni la Cámara de Representantes votaron antes del 6 de mayo de 2026?

Resumen

El proyecto de ley modificaría el tipo y la cantidad de marihuana que se puede poseer legalmente en Massachusetts, al derogar las leyes que legalizan, regulan y gravan la venta minorista de marihuana recreativa para adultos en dicho estado. Asimismo, permitiría a las personas mayores de 21 años poseer hasta 1 onza de marihuana, incluyendo un máximo de 5 gramos en forma de concentrado, y regalar o transferir a otra persona mayor de 21 años hasta 1 onza de marihuana, incluyendo un máximo de 5 gramos en forma de

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concentrado. Además, impondría una multa civil de \$100 y la confiscación de la marihuana por la posesión de cantidades comprendidas entre 1 y 2 onzas.

Para las personas de 21 años o menos, la ley propuesta convertiría la posesión de 2 onzas o menos de marihuana en una infracción civil sujeta a una multa de 100 dólares, la confiscación de la marihuana, la realización de un programa de concienciación sobre drogas y servicio comunitario, y la notificación a sus padres o tutor legal del delito y las sanciones.

El proyecto de ley permitiría a las empresas de marihuana recreativa para adultos con licencia solicitar, de forma acelerada, la licencia para convertirse en dispensarios de marihuana medicinal y vender su inventario restante a dichos dispensarios. El proyecto de ley mantendría la Comisión de Control del Cannabis, pero modificaría su autoridad para que regule únicamente el mercado de la marihuana medicinal.

El proyecto de ley establece que, si alguna de sus partes fuera declarada inválida, las demás partes seguirían vigentes.

El proyecto de ley entraría en vigor el 1 de enero de 2028.

Un voto afirmativo prohibiría la legalización, la regulación y la tributación de la venta minorista de marihuana para uso recreativo en adultos, y modificaría las sanciones por posesión de marihuana.

Un voto negativo no supondría ningún cambio en la ley relativa a la marihuana.

PREGUNTA 9 LEY PROPUESTA MEDIANTE PETICIÓN DE INICIATIVA POPULAR

¿Aprueba usted la ley que se resume a continuación, la cual fue aprobada por la Cámara de Representantes el 18 de julio de 2024 con 124 votos a favor y 33 en contra, y aprobada por el Senado el 18 de julio de 2024 con 35 votos a favor y 5 en contra?

Resumen

Esta ley introduce una serie de cambios en las leyes de Massachusetts que regulan las armas de fuego.

La ley incluye a los administradores escolares y a los profesionales sanitarios autorizados como partes facultadas para solicitar a un tribunal una Orden de Protección contra Riesgos Extremos, que exige a una persona la entrega de sus licencias, permisos y armas de fuego, si dicha persona representa un peligro inminente para sí misma o para los demás. La ley también establece que, al emitir una Orden de Prevención del Acoso, un tribunal puede ordenar la entrega de las licencias, permisos y armas de fuego.

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La ley impone sanciones por poseer, fabricar y transferir armas de fuego indetectables, conocidas como "armas fantasma", y exige que todas las armas de fuego, excepto las antiguas y las reliquias, incluyendo armazones y receptores sin terminar que puedan transformarse fácilmente en un producto terminado, tengan números de serie. La ley incluye las armas de fabricación privada, como las impresas en 3D, dentro de las disposiciones que rigen las armas de fuego indetectables conocidas como "armas fantasma".

La ley modifica los requisitos para la obtención de licencias de armas de fuego para: (1) permitir que las autoridades locales de concesión de licencias soliciten información previa sobre licencias y permisos al estado, así como acceder a las peticiones de internamientos psiquiátricos involuntarios denegados por un tribunal, además de los internamientos involuntarios previos, como parte de su revisión de las solicitudes de licencias para portar armas de fuego, tarjetas de identificación de armas de fuego y licencias para vender armas de fuego; (2) exigir que una persona tenga 21 años de edad para poseer rifles o escopetas semiautomáticas; (3) añadir la posibilidad de encarcelamiento de hasta seis meses por una segunda infracción de no denunciar la pérdida o el robo de un arma de fuego; y (4) permitir que los jóvenes de 12 a 15 años soliciten un permiso de autodefensa con gas pimienta con permiso de sus padres, y que los jóvenes de 15 a 18 años lo soliciten de forma independiente.

La ley permite que las autoridades locales de expedición de licencias de armas de fuego transfieran la responsabilidad de inspeccionar a los vendedores de armas a la Policía Estatal. La ley exige que dichas autoridades locales asistan a una capacitación estatal sobre estas inspecciones. Asimismo, exige que los vendedores confisquen las licencias vencidas o suspendidas y las reporten al estado y a las autoridades locales de expedición de licencias.

La ley modifica la definición de "ametralladora" para incluir los dispositivos de aceleración de disparo, las manivelas de gatillo, los interruptores de Glock y los fiadores automáticos, entre los que están sujetos a sanciones por posesión y uso. Asimismo, amplía la definición de "silenciador" para incluir las piezas utilizadas en su fabricación.

La ley aclara cómo determinar si un arma de fuego es un arma de asalto y las circunstancias en las que una persona puede seguir poseyendo armas de asalto y cargadores de gran capacidad que ya posee.

La ley exige que la Junta Asesora Estatal de Control de Armas de Fuego y el Secretario Estatal de Seguridad Pública revisen y actualicen las listas de armas de fuego de asalto prohibidas, armas de fuego aprobadas y armas de fuego aprobadas que se venden para tiro al blanco.

La ley aclara los requisitos relativos al porte y transporte de armas de fuego en vehículos motorizados y vehículos todoterreno. Prohíbe portar armas de fuego en edificios gubernamentales, centros de votación y escuelas, con ciertas excepciones.

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La ley amplía los requisitos de recopilación y presentación de datos hacia y desde el estado, y crea un panel de control de acceso público con datos agregados y anonimizados sobre armas de fuego, junto con una comisión para estudiar dichos datos.

La ley exige que la Policía Estatal proporcione capacitación y una prueba a los nuevos solicitantes de licencias para portar armas o tarjetas de identificación de armas de fuego.

La ley establece dos comisiones legislativas especiales: una para examinar la financiación de los servicios de prevención de la violencia y otra para estudiar las nuevas tecnologías en materia de armas de fuego.

La ley tipifica como delito disparar un arma de fuego contra un edificio en uso.

Un voto afirmativo mantendría vigente la ley, que aumenta la regulación de las armas de fuego, incluidas las armas de fabricación casera, las ametralladoras y las armas de asalto.

Un voto negativo derogaría esta ley.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the following places be and hereby are designated as polling places for the said meetings:

Y SE ORDENE ADEMÁS: Que los siguientes lugares sean y por la presente sean designados como lugares de votación para dichas reuniones:

WARD ONE / DISTRITO UNO

PRECINCT 1 Bentley Academy, 25 Memorial Drive/ RECINTO 1 Gimnasio, Escuela Bentley Academy, 25 Memorial Drive

PRECINCT 2 Community Room, 135 Lafayette Street/ RECINTO 2 Sala Comunitaria, 135 Lafayette Street

WARD TWO / DISTRITO DOS

PRECINCT 1 & 2 Community Life Center, 401 Bridge Street

RECINTO 1 & 2 Centro De Vida Comunitaria, 401 Bridge Street

WARD THREE / DISTRITO TRES

PRECINCT 1 & 2 Salem High School Auditorium, 77 Willson Street

RECINTO 1 & 2 Auditorio, Salem High School, 77 Willson Street

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WARD FOUR / DISTRITO CUATRO

PRECINCT 1 & 2 Witchcraft Heights School Gymnasium, 1 Frederick Street

RECINTO 1 & 2 Gimnasio, Escuela Witchcraft Heights, 1 Frederick Street

WARD FIVE / DISTRITO CINCO

PRECINCT 1 & 2 Saltonstall School Auditorium, 211 Lafayette Street

RECINTO 1 & 2 Auditorio, Escuela Saltonstall School, 211 Lafayette Street

WARD SIX / DISTRITO SEIS

PRECINCT 1 & 2 Bates School, 53 Liberty Hill Avenue

RECINTO 1 & 2 Escuela Bates School, 53 Liberty Hill Avenue

WARD SEVEN / DISTRITO SIETE

PRECINCT 1 & 2 Salem State Enterprise Center, 121 Loring Avenue

RECINTO 1 & 2 Salem State Enterprise Center, 121 Loring Avenue

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the polls at said meetings be opened at 7:00 a.m. and closed at 8:00 p.m. and that the City Clerk be instructed to post this notice as required by law.

Y SE ORDENE ADEMÁS: Que las urnas en dichas reuniones se abran a las 7:00 a.m. y se cierren a las 8:00 p.m. y que se instruya a la Secretaria de la Municipal para que publique este aviso como lo exige la ley.

Given under our hands this 24th day of September, 2026

Firmado de nuestro puño y letra este día 25 de junio de 2026.

City Council of City of Salem

Concejo Municipal de la Ciudad de Salem

Election Order

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#481- PETITION NATIONAL GRID TO INSTALL ONE JO POLE ON SUMMIT AVE AT THE INTERSECTION OF SUMMIT AVE AND EDEN ST

A hearing was ordered on October 8, 2026 on the petition from National Grid to relocate 1 Jointly Owned Pole on Summit Ave. at the corner of Summit Ave and Eden St.

#482- BLOCK PARTY ORNE SQUARE OCTOBER 31, 2026

Request from the residents of Orne Sq. to hold a Block Party on October 31, 2026, from 3PM - 9PM with no rain date was granted.

#483-485 LICENSE APPLICATIONS

The Following License Applications were granted

PUBLIC GUIDES:

ROSALIE RIVERA 46 CLOVERLLY STREET LYNN
 MOLLY KUSZEWSKI 11 ALBAMONT ROAD WINCHESTER
 TARN STEPHANOS 15 HIGHLAND AVE APT GB SOMERVILLE
 JONATHAN CWROK 26 NEW DERBY STREET #303 SALEM
 ALEXANDRA BRADLEY 18 SUMMIT AVE SOMERVILLE
 GABRIEL MAGGIO 1844 COMMONWEALTH AVE BOSTON
 MARCY RUGGIERO 34 KEYS DRIVE PEABODY
 EVAN "EVA" REPP 146 BREMENT STREET BOSTON
 SKYLER SPRAGUE 2 CLIFTON AVE APT 2 SALEM
 ISABELLA FERREIRA 233 LAFAYETTE STREET APT 8 SALEM
 JOHN WENDLER 100 WASHINGTON STREET #4 SALEM
 ALEXIS CARTER 4 LIBERTY PLACE APT D RANDOLPH
 BENJAMIN SELGIO 42 ADAMS STREET APT 2 SOMERVILLE
 YESSANIA TORRES 50 TUFTS STREET CHERLESTON
 EMILY SMITH 2112 AVALON DRIVE PEABODY
 CHRISTIAN GONZALEZ 78 CARTER STREET LYNN
 DAVID TALLIS 14 FOWLER STREET SALEM
 OLIVIA GIROUX-GALPIN 15 ORNE STREET APT A NORTH ATTLEBORO
 RACHEL WATERS 15 BOSTON STREET APT 2 SOMERVILLE
 DAVID MULHERN 422 SOUTH STREET TEWSKBURY
 KATHRYN MATTERN 8 MT VERNON STREET SALEM
 ISABELLA BOYDEN 95 WESTFORD STREET CHELMSFORD
 PAUL ROYKA 197 MILLERS FALL ROAD TURNS FALLS
 MARRISSA RAPPPOORT 22 BOSTON STREET APT 4 SALEM

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NORA "WILLIAM" KUHN 71 PRINCETON STREET MEDFORD
 THELLIA SERGILE 9 PINE HILL ROAD DANVERS
 AVAH ACEVEDO 67 ROOSEVELT STREET NEW BEDFORD
 JACOB "ELIZABETH" GILL 75 BALDWIN STREET APT 320 LYNN
 MAGDALA DELLY 44 HIGH ROCK STREET LYNN
 MELINA RAKASKA 23 FREMONT COURT ARLINGTON
 ANA "CAMERON" LINO 230 ESSEX STREET MELROSE
 ALAN ESTES 61 MIDDLE STREET NEWBURYPORT
 ALEXIA "LEXI" MARTONE 3 JAMES STREET FRAMINGDALE NY

TAXI OPERATORS:

JOSE TORRES CASTILLO 248 WASHINGTON ST. SALEM
 MARINO DE LOS SANTOS 12 POPE ST. SALEM
 JOEL ROSARIO FERREIRA 196 LORING AVE. SALEM
 SEAN CRONK 39R VETERANS AVE. EVERETT

VEHICLE FOR HIRE OPERATORS ONLY:

MICHAEL J, SINCLAIRE 12 RICE ST. SALEM
 LINDA FAVERMAN 109 MASON ST. SALEM

#486-487 CLAIMS

The following claims were referred to the committee on Ordinances, Licenses and Legal Affairs

The Following Claims:

Peter Pilout 1903 Dormicolle Circle N., St. Petersburg, FL
 Daniel Tully 6 Beverly Commons Drive Apt. 21 Beverly

#419-ORDINANCE AMENDMENT SECTION I CHAPTER 2 NOISE CONTROL SEC. 226

The following Ordinance amendment was adopted for second passage

In the year Two Thousand and Twenty-six

An Ordinance relative to Noise control

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Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Salem, as follows:Section I. Chapter 2 Noise Control, Sec. 22-6. – Special regulations relative to the Essex Street Pedestrian Mall and adjacent streets and sidewalks is hereby amended by:Inserting the phrase "the two public walkways abutting 20 Central Street running from Central Street to Derby Square" after the words "Cervoni Walkway" as they appear in Section 22-6(b)(2).Section II. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by City Charter.

#420- TRAFFIC ORDINANCE LAFAYETTE STREET AND SALEM STREET

The following traffice ordinance amendments were adopted for second passage.

In the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Six

An ordinance relative to Traffic

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Salem, as follows:

Section 1. Section 49 of Article IV be amended by repealing the following:

Lafayette Place – Obedience to Isolated Stop Signs – easterly bound traffic on Lafayette Place at Salem Street. (1/10/73 DPW 5-664)

Lafayette Place – Obedience to Isolated Stop Signs – southwesterly bound traffic on Lafayette Place at Salem Street, "Obedience to Stop Signs". (12/7/06)

Section 2. Section 51 of Article V be amended by repealing the following: Salem Street – Parking Prohibited on Certain Streets – easterly side

And inserting the following:

Salem Street – Parking Prohibited on Certain Streets – easterly side beginning at the intersection with Lafayette Place and extending in a northerly direction for approximately fifty-six (56) feet

Section 3. Section 51B of Article V be amended by inserting the following:

Salem Street – Parking prohibited at certain times on certain streets – westerly side beginning at a point one hundred and thirty (130) feet from the intersection with Lafayette Place and extending in a northerly direction for approximately three hundred

(300) feet. No parking, tow zone, except for school faculty, Monday through Friday September to June only 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

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Salem Street – Parking prohibited at certain times on certain streets – easterly side beginning at a point one hundred and seventy-five (175) feet from the intersection with Lafayette Place and extending in a northerly direction for approximately one hundred and thirty (130) feet. No parking, tow zone, except for school faculty, Monday through Friday September to June only 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Section 4. Section 74 of Article V-A be amended by inserting the following

Salem Street – General Prohibition Towing Zones – westerly side, beginning at the intersection with Lafayette Place and extending in a northerly direction for approximately one hundred and thirty (130) feet.

Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by City Charter.

#426-FIRE LANES BEACH AVE AND SUTTON AVE

The following Traffic Ordinance was adopted for second passage

In the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Six

An ordinance relative to Traffic

An ordinance relative to Traffic, Ch. 42 Sec. 13B – Fire lanes

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Salem, as follows:

Section 1. Section 13B of Article I be amended by inserting the following: Beach Avenue – Fire Lanes – on the easterly side, beginning at the intersection with Sutton Avenue and continuing for twenty-five (25) feet in a southerly direction Sutton Avenue – Fire Lanes – on the northerly side, beginning at the intersection with Beach Avenue and continuing for forty-five (45) feet in a westerly direction

Section 2.

This ordinance shall take effect as provided by City Charter.

#431- Gas Powered Leaf Blower

The Following Ordinance to amend an Ordinance relative to Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions

In the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Six

An Ordinance to amend an Ordinance relative to Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Salem, as follows:

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Section 1. Chapter 24 – Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions is hereby amended by adding

a new section as follows:

“Sect. 24-33 – Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

(a) Purpose

The use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers contributes to noise pollution, air contamination, and the release of harmful particulate matter. This ordinance seeks to protect the public health, welfare, and the environment by limiting the use of gas-powered leaf blowers, while also promoting the adoption of cleaner alternatives.

(b) Definitions

Commercial leaf blower operator: Any entity that receives income, remuneration, or compensation of any kind, whether as a fee, a charge, a salary, wages, or otherwise, for operating a leaf blower. All City Departments and their contractors are excluded from this definition.

Gas-powered leaf blower: Any portable handheld or backpack style power device that is powered by a petroleum-based engine and used in any landscape maintenance, construction, property repair, or property maintenance for the purpose of blowing, moving, removing, dispensing, or redistributing leaves, dust, dirt, grass clippings, cuttings, and trimmings from trees and shrubs or any other type of litter or debris.

Property Manager: Any tenant in possession or person or entity in control of real property, including, but not limited to, a condominium association.

Property Owner: The legal owner of record of real property as listed by the tax assessor’s records.

(c) Restrictions on Use

The use of gas-powered leaf blowers shall be prohibited in the City of Salem.

Discussion:

Councillor Varella made a motion to add back in City Departments, City of Salem shall comply with the gas powered leaf blower provisions no later than 2030. The motion was seconded by Councillor King.

Councillor Hapworth I just would want clarity it sounds like you're trying to add the city back in? Okay, if you're trying to add the city back in, there's many places where the City exists in the ordinance, so there's many amendments. We're back in the... where we were 2 weeks ago, So there'll be many, many amendments to make. I guess maybe we'd take that first one first and see how people feel on it, and then maybe not make the rest of them if there's not a will in the body to do it. But. It's not just in one

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place, it's in several places.

Councillor Varela: The reason I want to bring this back in is, I understand the residents want this. I do understand the reason we want to ban leaf blowers. I just can't get by the fact that the city is exempt from this. We've heard from our DPS director that he doesn't believe the technology is there. And... that... That's gonna be the same for any landscaper. I... I think we need to be cautious about this. If the city says they can't do it, and I trust Ray in this. Ray is a landscaper. That's what he's done for many, many years. He knows the industry, and I just don't think it's fair. For... The city to be exempt, and the... and businesses and individuals to be...privy to this ordinance. So, that's the reason I wanted to bring this in. I think it should be fair all around. If the city doesn't feel they can do it for feasibility reasons, it's going to be the same for residents and businesses here in the Commonwealth.

Councillor Smith: The city would incur a cost of over \$400,000 to switch their gear. They can't just go out and buy a leaf blower at Walmart. They have to go to set purveyors of leaf blowers, and they have to purchase them under Massachusetts state law. There's only certain ones they can get. If you... I want you to think about the largest pieces of property that are in this city. They are city property. They're cemeteries, parks. These are huge areas that we would have to add numerous personnel to. We're not talking about private contractors, people who choose to have yards. Instead. We're talking about residents that choose to have parks. Cemeteries, people who choose to bury their dead in cemeteries, now incurring a cost of \$7.50 per person in this city. Just to keep those spaces clean. And not to mention the Fire Department has to borrow leaf... they have to get leaf blowers from somewhere. They actually get them from DPS. They had said in the committee meeting that they do not. When I talked to the chief, they do. We want those to be on hand. Switching The City Now would be very costly. Have to add personnel and be dangerous. And so I think that leaving them off until the technology. As provided by state law, what they can actually buy is where it needs to be. It makes sense to leave them out. There's 4 years to put them back in. Chances are, we go to Ray in 2 years, and maybe he's ready, and they can get in even earlier. I just think right now, leaving them out is the wisest choice because of those main issues.

Councillor Sydoriak: I just want to echo the Ward 2 Councilor's comments. I think the scale and the responsibilities of the city government makes it so distinct that it isn't really a discussion about fairness. It's kind of apples to oranges. Like, there's two different things happening here of the responsibility. In public health and safety that is very distinct from a resident that needs to clear off their yard, and I think given that scale, it's important that we do set this aside and maybe give the city some time to wait out to see if the technology can meet that scale, can become feasible, and they can actually achieve what they can achieve now with that technology.

Councillor Holappa: I've always sort of been in favor of this, of this notion of having the city, practice what we preach, and, and lead on this, lead by example. I want to just

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clarify that the new, the old, the new old language. Does not dictate that DPS replace its entire fleet of gas leaf blowers by 2030. It simply states that they would not be able to use them except under certain conditions. So they would potentially still be available for the fire department to use, it would not necessarily be that giant cost. And again, this is several years from now when this would go into effect. I would be more comfortable, two years from now, effectively granting them an extension, rather than saying, hey, guess what? Now you only have 2 years, because now we're deciding we're going add you back in later. The downside to that, if we don't want to give them 2 years and we want to be more reasonable, then we're pushing it out even further. I think this is a reasonable way to get it forward, and I think there is a off-ramp if we choose to... if we decide that it is necessary later on.

Councillor Hapworth: I would be a no vote on this both ways, so I think that if you can't untangle that knot, which I don't feel that I can, that the city needs these, and for the time being, the technology is not there, and procurement is not able to get us something that makes sense financially. this is not an enforcement priority. I shouldn't probably say that, but this is not... I don't believe this is an enforcement priority for Salem PD. So, this... if this is passed, applying to commercial businesses and residents only. it feels hypocritical to me, I guess just on a... as a... as a counselor, but as a practical matter affecting the City of Salem. Some people will buy electric now that wouldn't otherwise, and that's great. But if we add the City of Salem back into this, that has an actual effect on Salem's taxpayers, the services Salem receives, and the. the work that Salem's Public Safety and DPW are able to do, so I will not vote yes on this amendment to add the city back in, but I'll also not vote yes to pass this as is. I would advise anyone who has issues with that sort of that...for rules for me and not for thee, or rules for thee and not for me, just to vote no on the full, order, but, but trying to go back through and amend this thing again. God, let's not go down that, please.

Councillor King: I have a point of clarification, and this, this could just be... we were making so many amendments on the fly, and I can't even find, like, minutes from the last meeting. It looks like we removed...Any effective date from this ordinance? 'm not seeing anything printed here, unless it's not...Unless it's somewhere else, and I don't see anything in the backup, but there's no effective date, which means if we pass this, it would be effective now? 20... I don't think the 2030 is... reflected the whole order. Given all the amendments we took, meeting. I don't know if I feel particularly comfortable voting on it unless I know we're actually voting on, to be honest. That... I'm very sorry to say that, but I... Not having a clear effective date that I actually know is true is an important piece of information.

Councillor Davis: we removed the effective date that's at the end of the ordinance just because it was redundant. The effective dates are laid out in an earlier section. I don't have it in front of me, but...In an earlier paragraph.

Councillor Varella withdrew his motion.

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Councillor King: if anyone has a version of this language that is posted publicly, I would love to see it, because I'm also looking back at the original committee meeting we had on it, and there's nothing... there's no language in that committee meeting, there's no language in the minutes. I know there was language that was brought in... by the at-large counselor, but I... I can't find a version of this language that is the final version that we are voting on anywhere online, and if anyone can point me to it, that would be great, but I... that's all. I just don't think it's... Great to vote on something that we don't know what we're voting on.

Councillor Hapworth: Can I just add that we... this is exactly what we voted on two weeks ago, so if you're worried about voting on something you haven't seen, you'd voted on that 2 weeks ago. This is... this was voted on as amended, this is second passage we're voting on right now.

Councillor King: When we voted on this two weeks ago, there was a handout on our desks that then people were marking up as we made amendments. I don't know about you, I recycle the amendments on my desk, and I don't think most people... for people who are at home and trying to figure out what we are voting on.

Councillor Smith: I'd like to propose an amendment that we add in Section F, just to the best of their ability, within... just for the City of Salem, just to clarify this language that they... conducting outreach, so it makes it a little bit more palatable. For a city department that is already overtaxed and overburdened to, have this on their plates coming down the pike. So, after, at the end of that, I would just say, to the best of their ability.

Councillor Smith's motion was seconded by Councillor Davis.

On the motion of Councillor Hapworth, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 P.M.