

DRAFT Warrant Article

Home Rule Legislation for new Lexington High School

To see if the Town will vote to:

1. Transfer from the Select Board and to the School Committee for school purposes the care, custody, management and control of parcels of land currently containing the Lexington High School Athletic Fields as shown on a sketch plan entitled “Figure G” dated October 3, 2025, on file with the Town Clerk (the “Athletic Field Parcels”), currently held by the Select Board for open space, recreation, and school purposes pursuant to Chapter 114 of the Acts of 1961;
2. Transfer from the School Committee and to the Select Board the care, custody, management and control of parcels of land currently containing the Lexington High School buildings as shown on a sketch plan entitled “Figure G” dated October 3, 2025 on file with the Town Clerk used as the site of the existing Lexington High School and adjoining parking areas currently held by the School Committee; such transfers being undertaken as mitigation for the proposed transfer of the Athletic Field Parcels which are subject to the protections of Article 97 of the Amendments of the Massachusetts Constitution to the School Committee for the siting of the new Lexington High School building, parking areas and other School Facilities; and further;
3. Authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court consistent with the requirements of Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution and G.L. c. 3, 5A to enact special legislation to authorize the transfer, conveyance or otherwise transfer the Athletic Field Parcels currently under the care, custody, management and control of the Select Board to the School Committee for school purposes; or act in any other manner in relation thereto.

Description: The purpose of this Article is to allow the new Lexington High School to be built on the Lexington High School athletic fields and allow the existing Lexington High School to be transformed into and protected as recreational space. It will also allow the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation to confirm that the transfer of land is permissible to the extent the existing fields remain in anyway restricted for use pursuant Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution, notwithstanding the prior authorization of the same parcels for use for park, playground and school purposes by the Legislature in 1961.

MOTION

Move that the Town:

1. transfer from the Select Board to the School Committee the care, custody, management and control of parcels of land currently containing the Lexington

High School Athletic Fields as shown on a sketch plan entitled “Figure G” dated October 3, 2025 on file with the Town Clerk (the “Athletic Field Parcels”), held by the Select Board and currently used for recreation purposes to the School Committee for school purposes; and further

2. transfer from the School Committee to the Select Board the care, custody, management and control of parcels of land currently containing the Lexington High School buildings as shown on a sketch plan entitled “Figure G” dated October 3, 2025 on file with the Town Clerk used as the site of the existing Lexington High School and adjoining parking areas from the School Committee to the Select Board; such transfers being undertaken as mitigation for the proposed transfer of the Athletic Field Parcels, which are subject to the protections of Article 97 of the Amendments of the Massachusetts Constitution to the School Committee for the siting of the new Lexington High School building, parking areas and other School Facilities; and further
3. Authorize, the Select Board to petition the General Court consistent with the requirements of Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution and G.L. c. 3, 5A to enact special legislation in substantially the form below to authorize the transfer of the Athletic Field Parcels currently under the care, custody, management and control of the Select Board to the School Committee for school purposes pursuant to Chapter 114 of the Acts of 1961 and to authorize the Legislature to make changes to the text of such legislation as is consistent with the purposes of this motion, subject to the approval of the Lexington Select Board:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE EXCHANGE OF CERTAIN PARK LAND IN THE TOWN OF LEXINGTON

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the select board of the town of Lexington may, pursuant to a vote of the Lexington special town meeting on _____, 2025 and the requirements of section 15A of chapter 40 of the General Laws, section 5A of chapter 3 of the General Laws, and Chapter 114 of the Acts of 1961, transfer the care, custody and control of certain parcels of land currently under the care and control of the select board of the town of Lexington for athletic fields to the school committee of the town of Lexington for school purposes. The parcels of land that may be transferred under this section comprise approximately ____ acres, and are more particularly described in whole or in part _____ in deeds recorded with the Middlesex south registry of deeds as _____.

SECTION 2. As a condition of any disposition of land pursuant to section 1, and to ensure no net loss of land subject to Article 97 of the amendments to the constitution of the Commonwealth and said section 5A of chapter 3 of the General Laws, the town of Lexington shall transfer the care, custody, management and control of parcels of land currently containing the Lexington High School buildings as shown on _____ from

the school committee of the town of Lexington to the select board of the town of Lexington for the siting of the new Lexington High School athletic field, public park, open space and recreational purposes.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

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