



Town of Chebeague Island

192 North Road

Chebeague Island, ME 04017

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June 19, 2020

Dear Chebeague Island Community,

There are a lot of changes taking place in our lives and the Annual Town Meeting and Elections are no different. Due to the Governor's Order that gatherings of 50 or more people are prohibited, the Board of Selectmen voted to conduct our Town Meeting by Referendum. There will be no open town meeting as we have had in the past.

The Board had previously voted to postpone our Annual Town Meeting from June 6th to July 11th because State Referendum voting was postponed to July 14th. We were all hoping that we could somehow conduct the usual open town meeting, but the Governor has not relaxed the prohibition of large gatherings. On July 14th, we will be voting on the local elections, the local budget, Republican and Democratic Primaries and the State Referendum Election with two Bond Questions.

You can request an absentee ballot or vote in person at the Chebeague Island Hall Community Center from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on July 14th. We will be practicing appropriate social distancing and disinfecting voting booths frequently. Voting in person may take a little longer for each voter, but we want everyone to be safe.

Local Elections – We will be voting for one member of the Board of Selectmen and two members of the School Committee. This will be write-in voting only as no one completed the nomination paper process. You will have to write in the name of the person and also check the box. This is important. You will write the name of the person AND check the box. One person for Board of Selectmen and two people for School Committee.

Local Budget Referendum – This Town has never voted on a budget by Referendum, so we have tried to consolidate articles to make it as simple as possible. There are 35 questions that include the School and Municipal Budget. The Board of Selectmen, the School Committee and I have worked very hard to keep the budget down as much as possible. The total budget is \$3,376,668 which is \$51,308 less than the previous year. The School budget is down by \$85,915. Please support your island leaders by voting yes on this year's budget proposal on July 14th.

Public Hearing - In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order, we will hold a virtual (Zoom) public hearing on the Budget Referendum Ballot to allow for debate and questions on Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at 6:00 pm. Check the Town website for connection information and to get a sample copy of the ballot.

State Democratic and Republican Primaries and Bond Questions – If you are registered as a Democrat or Republican, you will be given a Primary Election ballot. Everyone will have an opportunity to vote on the two State of Maine Bond Questions. Question 1 is to invest in high-speed internet infrastructure and Question 2 is for improvement of highways and bridges statewide.

We will begin sending absentee ballots out to those that have requested them next Monday, June 22nd. Sample ballots will be posted on June 26th in various locations around Chebeague Island. If you want an absentee ballot, please do not delay. Call the Town Office at 846-3148 or stop by to fill out an application.

Marjorie E. Stratton
Town Administrator