

News to Know - February 2026

February may be a short month, but there's a lot packed into these 28 days including a new program for residents to learn more about Town government, events recognizing Black History Month and Lunar New Year, the President's Day holiday (February 16) and February break for Wellesley Public Schools (February 17-20).

Key things to know for February:

- 2026 Annual Town Meeting prep and public hearings
- NEW! Be part of the inaugural Citizens' Leadership Academy class
- Annual Elections are March 3
- DPW SnoW Business

President's Day Holiday Schedule. Town of Wellesley municipal buildings, the Recycling and Disposal Facility (RDF), all Wellesley Free Library branches, and Wellesley Public Schools are closed on Monday, February 16 for President's Day. Regular hours of operation resume on Tuesday, February 17 EXCEPT for schools, which remain closed for February break through Friday, February 20.

2026 Annual Town Meeting Prep



TOWN MEETING

The Select Board will convene 2026 Annual Town Meeting (ATM) on Monday, March 30 at 7 p.m. in the Wellesley High School auditorium. The public is invited to attend. [Read the Annual Town Meeting warrant to learn about the articles to be considered at the meeting.](#)

Currently, all Boards and Committees are finalizing budget requests, presentations, and other materials to be presented at Town Meeting. In March, watch for a **Special Edition of The W** with updates on key issues and direct access to the Town-wide Financial Plan (TWFP) and related materials.

Advisory Committee Update & Public Hearing

Watch the [Advisory Committee](#) (Advisory) meetings to hear discussion on the 2026 Annual Town Meeting articles and Town department Fiscal Year 2027 budgets. Meetings are in-person at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall and are [broadcast on Wellesley Media](#); previous meetings are available [on demand](#).

On Wednesday, February 11 the [School Committee](#) will present the Wellesley Public Schools (WPS) FY27 budget request to Advisory. School officials also presented on

October 29, 2025 and January, 7, 2026. In a departure from prior years, this year, the WPS budget request will be voted on separately from all other Town departments' FY27 budgets. Share feedback and input with Advisory during Citizen Speak at the start of each meeting or [email comments to the Advisory Committee](#). Emails are distributed to all Advisory Committee members for their consideration.

Public Hearing. As required by the Town's bylaws, the Advisory Committee invites in-person public comments on all 2026 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles. Attend the ATM public hearing on Wednesday, February 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Great Hall, Town Hall.

Select Board Update

NEW! Citizens' Leadership Academy

The Town of Wellesley relies extensively on resident participation, with more than 200 volunteers serving on elected and appointed boards and working alongside staff to guide local decision-making. To strengthen this engagement, the Town has created a Citizens' Leadership Academy, a low-cost and proven program used successfully in many other communities.



The Academy will help residents better understand how local government operates, introduce them to senior staff and departments, and encourage informed participation in Town Meeting, boards, and committees. Key goals include building a more knowledgeable and engaged citizenry, expanding the pool of volunteers, and reducing misinformation by connecting residents directly with accurate sources of information.

Be part of the inaugural Citizens' Leadership Academy class! [Complete the online application](#) and return it electronically or deliver it in-person to the Select Board Office (3rd floor, Town Hall). Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, February 27. Please [email Wellesley Assistant Executive Director Corey Testa](#) with any questions or if you need additional information.

[View Citizens' Leadership Academy information on the Town website.](#)



Volunteers Needed for Wellesley Affordable Housing Trust

The Wellesley Affordable Housing Trust (WAHT) is seeking volunteers to serve on its Board of Trustees. Created in fall 2025, the mission of the WAHT is to provide for the creation and preservation of affordable housing in Wellesley for the benefit of low- and moderate-income households, and assisting the Town and other public agencies including the Wellesley Housing Authority. The Select Board is looking for interested volunteers to serve on the WAHT Board of Trustees.

Read more about the [establishing guidelines, objectives, and board responsibilities of the WAHT](#). If you're interested in being considered as a volunteer, please [complete the Town of Wellesley online volunteer form](#).

Select Board Office Hours

Select Board chair Marjorie Freiman will hold office hours on Thursday, February 26 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Town Hall. Both in-person and Zoom appointments are available. [Email Marjorie directly](#) to request a 15-minute appointment and indicate the type of appointment you prefer. You'll receive a reply confirming your time and the Zoom link if applicable. Office hours are in the Upper Conference Room (3rd floor, Town Hall).

2026 Annual Town Election

Election day in Wellesley is Tuesday, March 3! Voters will elect [individuals for Town wide offices](#) and [individuals for Town Meeting member seats](#). On Election Day, polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. for in-person voting. [Use the map to check your voting location.](#)



Accessible electronic voting is available to any voters who are unable to independently read, write, or physically manipulate or mark paper ballots because of a disability. To request an accessible ballot, [please contact the Town Clerk's Office](#).

Absentee Voting in-person for qualified voters is available until Monday, March 2 at noon. An appointment is required to vote absentee in-person.

Voter Registration. The last day to register to vote in the Annual Town Election is Friday, February 20 at 5 p.m. U.S. Citizens who live in Wellesley and are at least 18 years old on election day may register at Town Hall (525 Washington Street) or [register online](#) with a Massachusetts drivers license.

Vote by Mail. If you would like to vote by mail, the last day to [request a Vote by Mail ballot](#) is Tuesday, February 24 at 5 p.m.

[Find complete Election information on the Town website.](#)

From the Wellesley Free Library

Check out winter programs from the [Wellesley Free](#)

[Library](#). Information on events and activities at all branches can be found online in the [new WFL Program Guide](#). Printed copies of the guide are available in all Library locations.



WELLESLEY FREE
LIBRARY



From Wellesley Public Schools

Kindergarten registration for Wellesley Public Schools (WPS) is now open for children 5 years of age on or before August 31, 2026. See the [WPS Kindergarten Registration page](#) for information and document requirements. Find your elementary school district on the [WPS website](#).

Register ASAP! Families who complete the two-part registration process by March 1, 2026 will have the opportunity to attend a Kindergarten welcome event on the morning of March 7.

Community Kudos to DPW Crews!

110 miles of roads, 32 parking lots, and 19" of snow in late January made for some long days and nights for Wellesley DPW crews! And with our continued cold temperatures, most of the snow piles haven't melted. A huge



THANK YOU to our Highway Division staff for their work pre-treating roads; plowing streets, sidewalks, and parking lots; carting away snow piles; and continuing to respond to lingering issues by pushing back snow at intersections and ends of streets. Also thank you to residents and businesses for clearing hydrants, property and storefront areas, and to everyone for being patient and understanding!

With more winter weather still to come, please visit the Town website for complete [information about DPW winter operations](#).

Mark Your Calendars



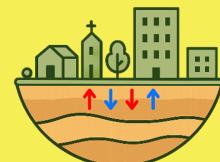
Needs Assessment Community Meeting

Join the Health Department and local officials for an open conversation on public health in Wellesley and how best to use funds from the recent Opioid Settlement Agreement.

In 2025, the Health Department worked with consultants to conduct a [comprehensive, evidence based review of community health needs](#). A full report, along with an [interactive flipbook](#), and data dashboard offers analysis and provides recommendations.

The community is invited to review the assessment findings and give feedback.

- Monday, February 23 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Wakelin Room, Wellesley Free Library



Geothermal Forum

Attend an Earth Day/Earth Month event, *Drilling Down on Affordable Energy: Geothermal Solutions for Heating and Cooling*, to learn about the benefits of ground-source heat pumps and geothermal networks, and how to apply these solutions in our community. Forum topics include:

- Geothermal technologies and how they work
- Low, predictable operating costs
- Financing structures, ownership models, incentives
- Resilient, healthy, low-carbon heating and cooling systems

Hosted by the [Climate Action Committee](#) and the [Wellesley Village Church](#), participants can also tour the new geothermal system at Wellesley Village Church.

Free and open to all with light refreshments. The meeting will also be [broadcast on Wellesley Media](#).

Feedback may also be shared directly by [emailing the Health Department](#).

- Wednesday, April 15 from 8:30 a.m. to Noon, Wellesley Village Church (2 Central St.)

Free and open to all. [Sign up in advance using the registration link](#).

Planning Board Update

Zoning Public Hearing

The Planning Board will hold a virtual public hearing on Monday, February 9 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the two Zoning Articles coming before Annual Town Meeting: To amend the flood plain/watershed protection district bylaw, and to amend the Residential Overlay District (RIO) bylaw. The hearing will take place via Zoom. [Find more information on the zoning articles on the Planning Department webpages](#). If you would like to speak at the public hearing, [email the Planning Department](#).

Planning Board Office Hours

Planning Board member Tom Taylor will hold office hours on Wednesday, February 11 from 10:30 a.m. to noon at Town Hall. [Email Tom directly](#) to schedule an appointment. Office hours will be in the Juliani Room (1st floor, Town Hall).



Historical Commission Vacancies

Volunteer to serve on the [Wellesley Historical Commission](#). Currently, there are vacancies for one regular member and three alternate members who work to preserve and protect the architectural, aesthetic, cultural, economic, political and social history of Wellesley. Members serve three year terms; meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. Interested individuals should [email the Planning Department a brief statement describing their interest and attach a resume](#).

Treasurer Reminder: Excise Tax Bills Mailed

Watch your mail for excise tax bills, which were sent out on Friday, February 6. Payments are due on Monday, March 9. Online payments are encouraged. [Contact the Treasurer/Collector's Office with questions](#).

Dates to Know

Upcoming Public Meetings

All board and committee meetings are posted on the [Public Meeting calendar](#).

Upcoming Community Events

Here's a sampling of events for our community:

- Feb. 7, 10 a.m. - [The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) program (Friends of Wellesley Free Libraries)

- Feb. 8, 2:30 p.m. - [Lunar New Year Festival](#) (Wellesley Chinese Language School)
- Feb. 11, 7 p.m. - [Conversation with the Candidates](#) (Sustainable Wellesley)
- Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m. - [Meet the Candidates Night](#) (League of Women Voters)
- Feb. 12, 7 p.m. - [Making Sense of AI in Education](#) presentation (Wellesley Education Foundation)
- Feb. 15, 3 p.m. - [Music Up Close](#) performance (Wellesley Symphony Orchestra)
- Feb. 22, 2 p.m. - [Chasing Beauty: The Life of Isabella Stewart Gardner](#) presentation (Wellesley Historical Society)
- Feb. 25, 10 a.m. - [Prospective Member Coffee](#) (Wellesley Service League)

Check out the full [Community Calendar](#) on the homepage of the Town website. And submit your events using our [online event submission form](#).



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