

Annual Town Meeting

Select Board Article 31

SUPPORTING FIRST RESPONDERS

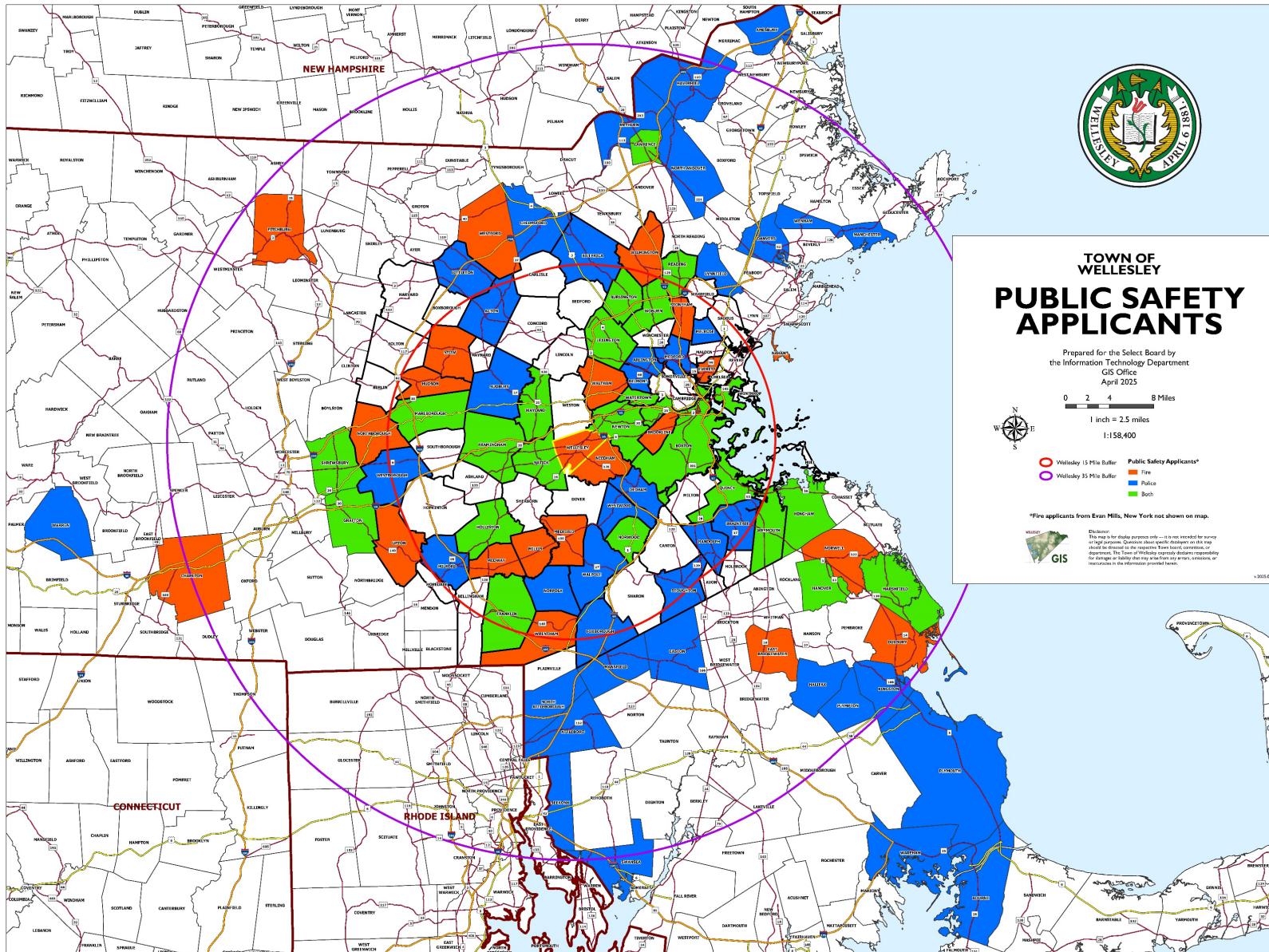
Living Distance for First Responders

- Under current state law, non-civil service fire and police personnel are required to live within a 15-mile radius of the border of the municipality for which they are employed
- Given the lack of affordable housing in Massachusetts and Wellesley's desire to attract and retain Fire and Police personnel, this Article seeks to expand the radius from 15 to 35 miles – greatly expanding the area in which firefighters and police officers may live if they work for Wellesley
- Wellesley Firefighters bargained for this provision in their most recent contract; would have to bargain with Police to extend the radius to 35 miles
- Both Fire and Police Department leadership are supportive of this initiative

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to petition the General Court for passage of a special law substantially as provided below. The Legislature may make clerical or editorial changes in form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the Legislature. The Select Board is hereby authorized to approve amendments that shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition, or take any other action in relation thereto.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO NON-CIVIL SERVICE PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL IN THE TOWN OF WELLESLEY

- SECTION 1. Notwithstanding section 99A of chapter 41 of the General Laws, or any other general or special law to the contrary, the town of Wellesley may increase the 15-mile residency limit contained in said section 99A of said chapter 41 for members of the Wellesley police and fire departments. Provided, that any increase in the residency limit shall be subject to a collective bargaining agreement negotiated in accordance with chapter 150E of the General Laws.
- SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.



Explaining the Maps

Departmental Applicants

- Red = FIRE
- Police = BLUE
- Both = GREEN
- Red circle = 15-mile radius
- Purple circle = 25-mile radius

- Large number of applicants for both departments coming from outside the 15-mile radius
- New personnel have 12 months to move to a home within the prescribed radius

The Select Board requests your
favorable action on
Article 31, Motion 1.