



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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December 21, 2023

Winchendon Board of Selectmen
Town of Winchendon
109 Front Street, Dept. 1
Winchendon, MA 01475

**Re: Winchendon Special Town Meeting of November 13, 2023 – Case # 11283
Warrant Article # 18 (Charter)**

Dear Board of Selectmen:

Article 18 - Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 43B, § 10 we have reviewed the vote taken under Article 18 at the November 13, 2023 Special Annual Town Meeting. General Laws Chapter 43B, Section 10 (c) requires the Attorney General to furnish “a written opinion setting forth any conflict between the proposed amendment and the constitution and laws of the commonwealth.” We do not find any conflict between the charter amendment vote adopted under Article 18 and the Constitution or laws of the Commonwealth (“state law”).

Our review is confined to the proposed charter amendments reflected in Article 18 and submitted to us for review and does not include a review of the existing text in the Town’s charter. However, we remind the Town to consult with Town Counsel to ensure compliance with the charter amendment procedures established under G.L. c. 43B, §§ 11 and 12, including the filing requirements for approved charter amendments in Section 12 which states in relevant part:

Section 12. Certificates in quadruplicate shall be prepared setting forth any charter that has been adopted or revised and any charter amendments approved and shall be signed by the city or town clerk. One such certificate shall be deposited in the office of the state secretary and shall be kept under the custody of the archivist of the commonwealth, one shall be deposited in the office of the director of housing and community development, one shall be deposited in the office of the attorney general and the other shall be recorded in the records of the city or town and deposited in its archives.

Very truly yours,
ANDREA JOY CAMPBELL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Kelli E. Gunagan

By: Kelli E. Gunagan, Assistant Attorney General
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cc: Town Counsel Jonathan Murray
Town Clerk Wendy A. Stevens