

# PETITION

## Warrant Article - Annual Town Meeting

(No Less Than Ten Signatures)

We the undersigned registered voters of the Town of Shrewsbury pursuant to G.L. Chapter 39, Section 10 request that the Board of Selectman place onto the next Annual Town Meeting the following warrant article:

**Article \_\_\_\_** : To see if the Town will vote to adopt a bylaw to discontinue the fluoridation of the public water supply; recognizing the benefits of switching to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) School Fluoride Mouthrinse Program, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

Further, that the following motion be put before the Annual Town Meeting

**MOTION:** I move that the Town adopt the following bylaw to discontinue the fluoridation of the public water supply, recognizing the benefits of switching to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) School Fluoride Mouthrinse Program.

### ARTICLE 23: FLUORIDATION DISCONTINUANCE BY-LAW

#### SECTION 1 PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purposes of this Fluoridation By-law are, among other purposes, to return individual choice to the public as it relates to their health care decisions related to dental caries prevention; to more effectively use taxpayer funds; to safeguard the public health, safety and welfare; and to protect the drinking water quality and safety. The following conditions have been identified as benefits to discontinuing the Community Water Fluoridation Program and switching to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) School Fluoride Mouthrinse Program:

- A. Who makes the medical decision?
  - a. Mouthrinse program - Parents decide whether or not their child will participate in the program. Adult residents aren't covered by this program; and therefore can make their own decisions related to tooth decay prevention through consultation with their own doctor and dentist.
  - b. Fluoridation program - The town government is making the medical decision for citizens.
- B. What does it cost?
  - a. Mouthrinse program - The program is free. Since 1978, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health has supported the Fluoride Mouthrinse Program, providing school-age children with an effective way to reduce decay at no cost to parents or schools.
  - b. Fluoridation program - The town budgets approximately \$15,000 annually for the fluoridation chemical.
- C. What types of Fluoride are used?
  - a. Mouthrinse program - FDA-approved Sodium Fluoride mouthrinse is used.
  - b. Fluoridation program - Currently, Hydrofluorosilicic Acid that is sourced from the Air Pollution Control System of a Phosphate Fertilizer Plant in North Carolina is added to the water supply. When the new Water Treatment Plant becomes operational (targeted for December 2018), Sodium Fluoride that is sourced from the Air Pollution Control System of a Phosphate Fertilizer Plant in China will be added instead.
- D. How is the dosage controlled?
  - a. Mouthrinse program - A controlled topical dose (which is not swallowed) is provided under the supervision of a certified program monitor.
  - b. Fluoridation program - An uncontrolled systemic dose (which is swallowed) is received by an individual because people drink different amounts of water. Infants and young children receive proportionately much higher dosages than adults at a time when their bodies and minds are far more vulnerable.

