

# Elected to Appointed Positions



On May 13, 2025, District voters will participate in the annual election to decide whether the Clerk and Treasurer, Chief Engineer and Assistant Engineers should continue to be elected positions or become positions appointed by the Prudential Committee. This presentation provides answers to common questions and explains the context and rationale behind the ballot questions.

# 1. What is the purpose of the ballot questions?

The ballot questions ask District voters to determine whether the Clerk and Treasurer, Chief Engineer and Assistant Engineers should be elected by voters or appointed by the Prudential Committee. This decision is part of a broader effort to improve financial, administrative, and daily operations within the District.

## 2. Why are these questions being proposed?

**These changes are aimed at enhancing efficiency, accountability, and expertise in the District.**

For the Clerk and Treasurer, the Department of Revenue recommends appointing key financial positions to ensure they are filled by individuals with specific qualifications and experience, which is crucial for managing municipal finances effectively.

For the Fire Engineers, it is difficult to put training requirements on elected officials. NFPA and Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards (OSHA) require Fire Officers to be trained to the following.

FF I/II, Fire Officer I, CPR/First Responder, Hazmat – Responder Operational Level Nims 700 and 800, and ICS 100, 200, 300, 400. Failure to have trained and qualified Officers creates potential Liability on the Chief and The District and is dangerous for our firefighters.

### 3. What are the benefits of appointing these Positions?

**Professional Qualifications:** Appointed positions would be selected based on their expertise, educational background, and professional experience, ensuring the District's operations are in capable hands.

**Accountability:** Appointed Officials would report directly to the Prudential Committee, providing clear oversight and performance expectations.

**Consistency:** Appointing Officials ensures continuity and reduces the risk of frequent turnover due to elections, which can disrupt long-term financial and operational planning and stability.

**Alignment with Best Practices:** Many Massachusetts municipalities have moved to an appointed model for officers, following state guidance to ensure efficient and effective governance.

## 4. How does the current system work?

Under the current system, these Officials are elected by District voters every three years. While this allows for public input, there is no requirement for candidates to have specific expertise or knowledge of municipal operations, which can limit the District's ability to address complex challenges.

## **5. Will this change affect transparency?**

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No. Transparency remains a priority regardless of whether the positions are elected or appointed. The Officials' responsibilities will continue to be subject to public oversight and auditing processes.

## **6. If this passes and the Officials become Appointed, when would this take effect?**

The current Officials will continue to hold their offices until their term expires, unless the position is sooner vacated. At that point, the Committee will appoint a new Officer based on qualifications and experience.



## **7. What happens if voters decide to keep the positions elected?**

If voters choose to retain the elected model, the Officers will continue to be chosen through municipal elections. However, the District may face challenges in everyday operations.

# Thank you!

To view a copy of this presentation, please visit the District's website at [www.adamsfiredistrict.com](http://www.adamsfiredistrict.com)