



SEN. LINDSEY GRAHAM, TRUMP ALLY, DIES AT 71

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Heat waves turn homes dangerous for all ages



If you can't access cooling in a heat wave, drink water constantly to stay hydrated and regulate your body temperature. GETTY IMAGES

Most heat-related deaths occur indoors; learn how to reduce risk

Zoltan Nagy
Eindhoven University of Technology
THE CONVERSATION

Most people know that heat waves can be dangerous. What they may not realize is that the heat indoors can be much worse than outdoors.

When the power goes out and air conditioning stops, a house starts to function like a greenhouse. Heat enters through windows and walls and has nowhere to go. Air stagnates.

Within hours, indoor temperatures can climb well above what the thermometer shows outside, especially on upper floors and in rooms with south-facing windows. Over longer periods, especially if temperatures don't cool off overnight, conditions can become lethal.

Most heat-related deaths occur indoors. When a heat dome sent temperatures soaring in the Pacific Northwest in 2021, 98% of the more than 600 deaths in British Columbia happened inside homes. Washington and Oregon also saw high numbers of deaths in homes that lacked air conditioning.

In Europe, where only 1 in 10 households have air conditioning, heat waves killed an estimated 60,000 people in



People and their dog sit under cooling tents in Austin, Texas, during a heat wave in 2023. Climate projections for Austin show that heat waves will double in frequency by the end of the century. SUZANNE CORDEIRO/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

2022 and 47,000 in 2023, largely inside buildings never designed for these temperatures.

People of all ages are at risk in heat waves like these. I spent eight years at the University of Texas at Austin studying how buildings respond to extreme heat. In a recent study, my team assessed the heat risk in every single-family home in Austin.

We found that even younger, healthy adults face far more risk than they realize.

How hot is too hot for a human body?

Your body maintains a core temperature of about 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit. To cool down, it pushes blood to the skin and sweats. But when air temperature is high, that convective cooling weakens. When humidity is also high, sweat cannot evaporate.

If the body has no way to release

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Board rejects Gansett school budget

Emilia Cardona
The Gardner News
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Select Boards of Templeton and Phillipston and the Narragansett Regional School Committee will set the date to present the fiscal 2027 school budget to voters once again and appoint a moderator for that district-wide special meeting.

The joint meeting will be held at the Narragansett Regional High School building, 464 Baldwinville Road, in Baldwinville, starting at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday July 14.

The prior day on Monday, July 13, the Templeton Select Board will have an executive session during its regular meeting to "discuss strategy with respect to litigation if any open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares (NRSD Agreement)," according to the meeting agenda.

What triggered this joint meeting was Phillipston voters failing to pass a \$208,020 school budget override by the slimmest of margins on Tuesday, June 30. Templeton voters have approved their portion of the school budget so now both town voters will have to vote again on the FY27 school district budget.

During the joint town meeting, voters from the two towns vote together instead of by town to decide the school district budget.

As of Wednesday, July 1, the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has set a monthly spending limit, which is typically called a 1/12 budget. This is because the fiscal year began on that date.

During the initial Annual Town Meeting in May, the allocation of the fiscal 2027 school district budget presented to Phillipston voters was \$2,490,509, but voters approved only \$2,123,541. While at the Templeton Town Meeting, voters approved the requested allocation of \$10,052,160 for the Narragansett Regional School District. The two towns' school expenditures are based on each community's student population.

Both towns share a school district, which requires both municipalities to approve the school budget before either town's budget can be finalized.



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