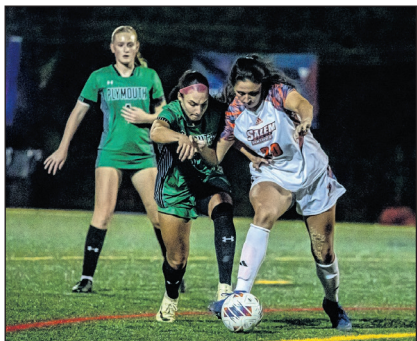


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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

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Local election officials petition Congress for \$400M

By Michael McHugh
» Staff Writer

BEVERLY — Lisa Kent and more than 80 election officials nationwide gathered in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 30 to ask Congress to approve \$400 million in fiscal 2026 federal funding to ensure safe, secure, and efficient elections.

Kent, Beverly's city clerk, along with Assistant City Clerk Katie Dupont, joined nine other Massachusetts city and town clerks from Brookline, Easton, Everett, Free-town, Harwick, Hopkinton, Lexington, Nantucket, and Northborough.

Although they arrived as the federal government shutdown was imminent, members of Congress and their staffs still made time to meet with them to hear about their concerns over aging equipment, insufficient staffing, cybersecurity threats, and a need for greater security at polling locations, Kent said.

"With all the changes that have happened in the past nine years for how you can vote, whether it is to vote by mail, using an online portal for those that qualify, having weeks of in-person early voting (that is mandatory in Massachusetts for state and federal elections and offered at municipal elections)," she said.

"This all puts a strain on the office, (which) is also responsible for their day-to-day city-town clerk and city council duties. Together, we're sending a clear message that federal support is essential to keep elections strong and safe in all of our communities, big or small."

In fiscal 2018, Congress approved \$380 million in election security grants to states, and in fiscal 2020, Congress approved \$425 million in addition to \$400 million in CARES Act funding to support elections during COVID-19. The cumulative \$825 million investment in 2020 was the largest federal investment in elections in

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Gaining momentum



DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Judith Black, professional storyteller and troublemaker, at Wednesday's vigil. More photos on page 3.

From staff reports

SALEM — About 20 North Shore residents gathered at Riley Plaza Wednesday evening to stand together in a vigil ahead of a major No Kings protest set for Saturday.

Organizers of the vigil and protest said a candlelight ceremony was to recognize the challenges of a democracy living with an authoritarian leader. There were multiple speakers who shared their concerns and efforts to uphold democracy and the Constitution.

Candles were lit to represent human rights, immigrants, peace, and other concerns.

Saturday's rally is planned for noon, also at Riley Plaza, as one of more than 2,500 rallies scheduled nationwide on Oct. 18, in all 50 states, as part of the No Kings movement to protest the Trump administration.



DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN

Deborah Baker speaks after a period of silence following the candle lightings

Lawmakers block funds for sheriffs amid probe

By Christian M. Wade
» Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON — Legislative leaders are withholding new funding for county sheriffs amid concerns about the "financial and operational integrity" of their offices.

The House Ways and Means Committee approved a \$2.2 billion supplemental budget Tuesday to close out the previous fiscal year's books by providing more money for health care, education and the state's life sciences industry.

But before teeing up the spending bill for a vote Wednesday, Democratic House leaders stripped a provision, initially proposed Gov. Maura Healey, that called for providing another \$162 million for county sheriffs to cover operational costs.

In a joint statement, House Ways and Means Chairman Aaron Michlewitz and Senator Ways and Means Chairman Michael Rodriguez said they have agreed to fund sheriffs' costs for the Section 35 alcohol and substance use treatment program and free phone calls for inmates, but are withholding \$162 million "until a thorough review can be completed."

"Over the past few months, serious questions and concerns have been raised about the financial and operational integrity of our sheriffs' offices across the Commonwealth," they said. "As we work to maintain fiscal stability, live within our means, and responsibly close the books on fiscal year 2025, it is clear that the Legislature must act to rein in questionable spending practices and restore public confidence in

SEE PROBE, PAGE 2

Meet the Peabody at-large candidates

9 vie for 5 seats
By Caroline Enos
» Staff Writer

PEABODY — Voters will choose five councilors at-large from nine candidates in the Nov. 4 municipal election.

Three candidates, Anne Manning-Martin, Tom Rossignoll and Jon Turco, are running to keep their spots.

Current School Committee members Joseph Amico and Jarrod Hochman, along with Tristan Brown, Jaclyn Corriveau, Justin Titus and

George Goulos, are looking to unseat the incumbents and fill positions left vacant by current councilors Tom Gould and Ryan Melville, who are not seeking reelection.

Read below to learn more about the candidates.

At-Large

Joseph Amico, 53, has served on the School Committee since 2015 and has lived in Peabody since 2003.

Amico is married with two children. He has been a history teacher at Susan B.



Joseph Amico

Anthony Middle School in Revere since 2000 and also owns Amico Property Services LLC.

He earned a bachelor's degree in criminology at Suffolk University, a master's in history at Salem State University and a certificate of advanced graduate study in leadership from the

University of New England.

Amico has been the School Committee's vice chair, sits on the finance and education subcommittees and is a member of the building committee for the city's new public safety building going up on Allens Lane.

"I enjoy giving back to the city. I enjoy helping people at the end of the day," Amico said. "There's no real fame in this, or glory, you know? You help your neighbor like you would normally and if you can, you can help a lot

of people. That's what it's about."

Tristan Brown, 40, is a data privacy attorney for the state's Executive Office of Health and Human Services seeking office for the first time.

Brown has been a member of the Peabody Democratic City Committee since moving here in 2013. He is married with four children.

He previously worked as legal analyst in the student loan assistance unit for then-Attorney General Maura Healey and in data privacy at

Boston Medical Center.

He has a bachelor's degree from UMass Amherst and graduated with a law degree from New England Law in Boston. He also regularly contributes opinion columns on national political issues to The Salem News.

"In 2025, I believe our



Tristan Brown

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