

Memo

To: Selectboards of the Towns of Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Montague, Northfield & Warwick

From: Alan Genovese, Chair, Six Town Regionalization Planning Board

cc: Town Clerks of the Towns of Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Montague, Northfield & Warwick

Date: August 28, 2026

Re: Language for Ballot Question

As a follow up to my memo of August 27, 2026, please find below the language to be used for the ballot question regarding the establishment of the Great River Regional School District. The Article in the Warrant for the election and the question on the printed ballots to be used at such election shall be in substantially the following form:

Article [I]

Shall the Town accept the provisions of sections sixteen to sixteen I, inclusive, of chapter seventy-one of the General Laws, providing for the establishment of a regional school district, to consist of the towns of Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Montague, Northfield and Warwick, and to be known as the Great River Regional School District (the "New District")? The New District would be formed and governed in accordance with an agreement filed by the Six Town Regional Planning Board with the Select Board - either the six-town agreement (the "Six-Town Regional Agreement") or the five-town agreement (the "Five-Town Regional Agreement"), depending on the results of this vote as described below (copies of both of which are available for inspection at Town Hall and on the website 6towns.org).

If a majority of the voters present and voting in each of the towns of Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Northfield, Warwick and Montague, vote in the affirmative, the New District shall be established to include all six towns, and the Six-Town Regional Agreement shall thereupon become effective and govern the New District, subject to approval of the Regional Agreement by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education; provided, however, that if a majority of the voters of the Town of Warwick present and voting on this question does not vote in the affirmative, the New District shall instead be established to include only the towns of Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Northfield and Montague, shall not include the Town of Warwick, and the Five-Town Regional Agreement shall thereupon become effective and govern the New District, subject to approval of the Regional Agreement by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education.

Full operation of the New District, and dissolution of the Gill-Montague Regional School District (the "GMRSD") and the Pioneer Valley Regional School District (the "PVRSD"), shall be further subject to enactment of special legislation permitting (a) the transfer of the buildings and other assets and liabilities of each of the GMRSD and the PVRSD to the New District on the date the New District becomes fully operational (at the end of the transition period specified in the Regional Agreement); and (b) the dissolution of the GMRSD and the PVRSD on that same date without further action by any public body.