

MARBLEHEAD CEMETERY DEPARTMENT

VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE

The Marblehead Cemetery Department, under the direction of the Superintendent, serves every family in town year-round. Managing over **40 acres** across Waterside and Harborview Cemeteries, the department handles all burials, recordkeeping, lot sales, genealogy, grounds maintenance, and winter road support. A single office clerk runs all public-facing services. Four full-time crew members maintain all infrastructure. Any further reduction directly affects grieving families and our historic grounds.

CEMETERY DIVISIONS & CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

Office Clerk	Arranges all burial services and answers public questions on lot ownership, burial rights, regulations, memorials, genealogy, and lot location. Handles all lot sales for Waterside and Harborview Cemeteries.	Grounds Crew (4)	Maintains all buildings, equipment, roads, water systems, walls, fences, gates, and benches. Installs cement foundations for upright memorials and markers, and repairs stones where specialist services are not required.	Winter Operations	Cemetery vehicles and staff plow Waterside Cemetery streets and assist the DPW with Marblehead road plowing each winter. The crew also supports curbside Christmas tree collection for the annual community tree burning.
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■ INVEST PLAN

Override Passes: Full Services Maintained
Burial services, grounds and staffing preserved

Staffing

- Office clerk remains full-time, serving families during all office hours (Tier 1)
- Four-person grounds crew retained, keeping burial services on schedule (Tier 1)
- Seasonal positions funded, ensuring trimming around memorials continues (Tier 1)

Burial Services

- Saturday burials maintained, giving families full scheduling flexibility (Tier 1)

Grounds and Maintenance

- Equipment purchase and repair budgets remain intact (Tier 1)
- Grounds maintained to current standard without costly outside contractors (Tier 1)

Long-Term Value

- In-house labor costs remain three times lower than outside contractors (Tier 1)
- Historic 40-acre grounds protected for future generations (Tier 1)

■ NO OVERRIDE

FY27 Balanced Budget Cuts Take Effect
Reduced hours, delayed services and higher costs

Staffing Cuts

- Office clerk reduced to 20 hours, forcing the office to close during off-hours and leave time
- General labor position eliminated, dropping the crew from four workers to three

Burial Services

- Three-person crew faces risk of burial service delays under full workload
- Saturday burials limited to control overtime costs, reducing family flexibility

Grounds and Maintenance

- Seasonal positions cut, ending all trimming around memorials and markers
- Smaller projects sent to outside contractors at three times the in-house cost
- Equipment budget eliminated, preventing needed purchases and repairs

Deferred Maintenance

- Outside contractors charge three times what in-house staff cost for the same work
- Deferred stone and infrastructure repairs become more expensive every year