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April 14, 2005

Williamstown resident considers Patriot Act vote for May 17 town meeting



How are you going to vote on May 17? On that night Williamstown Town Meeting voters will have to decide whether to send a message to state and federal governments resisting allegedly resisting aspects of the so-called [USA Patriot Act](#) which [abridge First Amendment and Fourth Amendment](#) freedoms through [surveillance](#), [privacy intrusion](#). To help you decide, Williamstown resident Ray Warner (a retired *New York Times* copyeditor) [has provided a text](#) of the Town Warrant Article he authored and has penned an [op-ed column](#) in support of its approval. The

warrant article calls for the town to join more than 350 U.S. communities in urging caution in the way they observe the act, portions of which [will expire automatically](#), and a remarkable left-right coalition [wants it gutted](#). Warner's resolution is pretty simple . . . it asks selectmen to direct the police department to "refrain from engaging in surveillance of individuals and groups based on their participation in activities protected by the [First Amendment](#), such as political advocacy or the practice of religion." It directs town police not to act alone or help federal or state officials spy on the the political, religious, social views, associations or activities of anyone unless as part of a criminal investigation. It requires the town library to post a notice saying that records of your book- or tape-borrowing activities can be inspected and seized by federal agents -- and the library can be [gagged from telling you about it](#) (all this under the act as currently in force). Here is a link to the text as a regular HTML file: [Download willamstown MA patriot act resolution.htm](#) and also as a PDF file (better for printing): [Download willamstown MA patriot act resolution.pdf](#) . Our selectmen, by the way, [have declined to give their support](#) for this resolution. Why? How will you vote at town meeting?

Posted by [Bill Densmore](#) on April 14, 2005 at 08:12 AM in [Williamstown Town Meeting/Patriot Act](#) | [Permalink](#)

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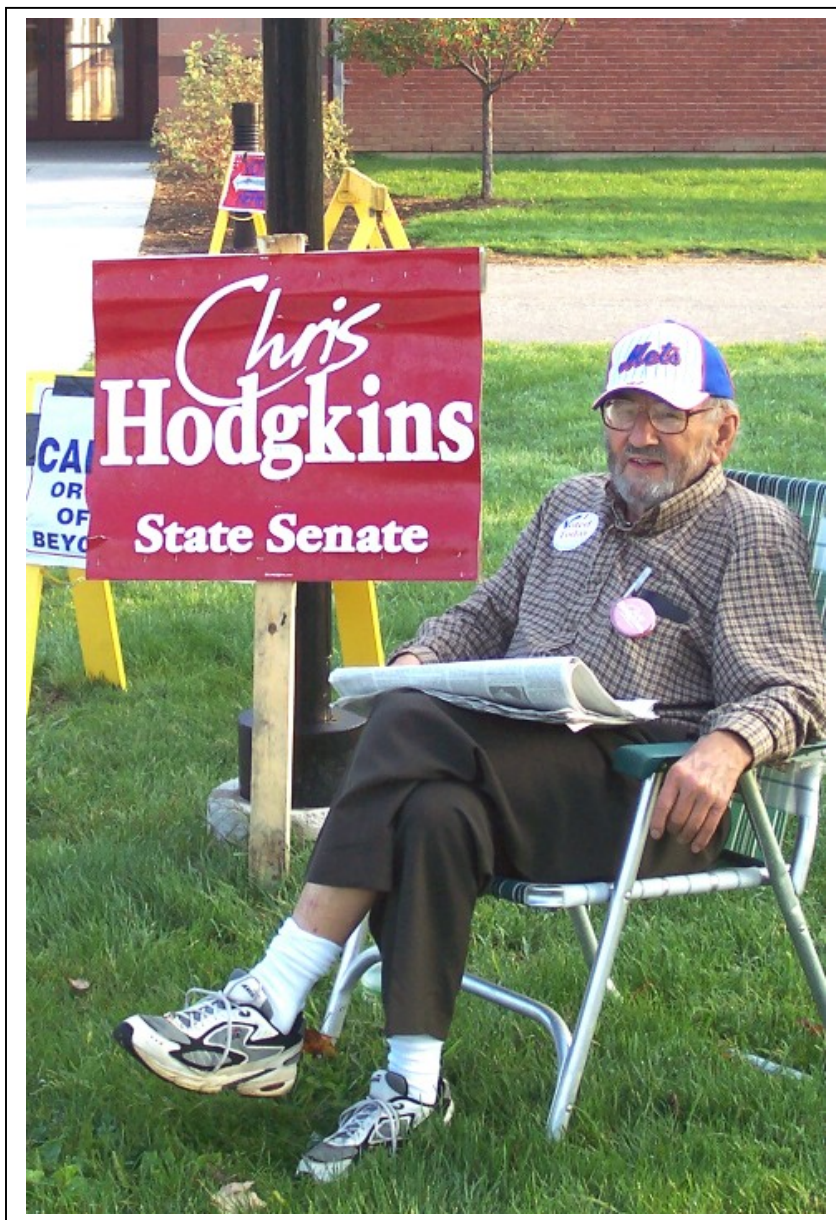
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Sept. 19, 2006

Four-way contest in evidence in Massachusetts state senate race; but unity celebration to follow in Pittsfield

WILLIAMSTOWN, Mass. --

The contested Massachusetts state senate Democratic primary race in Berkshire County was in evidence at the polls this morning as candidate Marjorie Ware (*photo, right, standing with her husband, attorney Robert Ware*) greeted voters about 50 feet outside the legal no-politiking zone, while ardent Christopher Hodgkins support Ray Warner (*photo, right*) perused a New York Times (where he used to be a copyeditor) and kept watch over a Hodgkins sign. Whatever the outcome of the four-way senate race, the countywide party organization, the "Berkshire Brigades," will hold a unity celebration on Wednesday, Sept. 20, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Thaddeus Clapp House, 74 Wendell Ave. in Pittsfield. The event is free and open to all Democrats. Mass. Democratic Party Chair Philip Johnston, the Berkshire legislative delegation, and many other community



leaders will be in attendance. Former state Rep. Sherwood Guernsey is one of the party's organizers.

Posted by [gailburns](#) on September 19, 2006 at 08:05 AM