

**DECLARATION DEFENDING OUR DEMOCRACY,
THE U.S. CONSTITUTION, AND THE RULE OF LAW**
Call to Honor and Defend Democracy
Leverett, Massachusetts _____ 2025

WHEREAS, the Town of Leverett celebrated the 250th anniversary of its incorporation, just two years before the nation celebrates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence; and

WHEREAS, September 17, 2025, Constitution Day, marked the 236th anniversary of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, in the 1700s, before American colonists filed the Declaration of Independence, towns across Massachusetts formed Committees of Correspondence that sent Resolutions of Disapproval to King George, expressing strong opposition to British laws and policies they considered unjust, including "no taxation without representation"; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts of 1780 is one of the oldest functioning written constitutions in the world, and served as a model for the United States Constitution of 1789; and

WHEREAS, as James Madison wrote in Federalist Paper No. 47, "The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive and judicial [l] in the same hands, whether of one, a few, or many, and whether hereditary, self-appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny"; and

WHEREAS, written by John Adams, the Commonwealth's Constitution includes key aspects of American governance that are now widely accepted: separation of powers, checks and balances, an independent judiciary, and the Declaration of Rights, provisions that protect individuals against state power, and that were later reflected in the U.S. Constitution as the Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, one of the foundational pillars of our democracy is the separation of powers embodied within the Constitutional framework; and

WHEREAS, during the first ten months of his second term, President Donald J. Trump and his appointees have demonstrated a blatant disregard for the separation of powers by disobeying court rulings, attempting to overturn birthright citizenship, denying fundamental civil liberties such as habeas corpus, impounding funds approved by Congress, closing departments and agencies created by Congress, unilaterally imposing tariffs, interfering in state-run elections, deploying the U.S. military on U.S. soil against American residents, obstructing Congressional oversight of executive departments and agencies, and launching military strikes without the consent or authorization of Congress, in violation of the Constitution and the 1973 War Powers Act; and

WHEREAS, President Trump and his appointees have publicly stated and demonstrated that they are targeting Massachusetts residents through:

- aggressive immigration enforcement under the false pretense that our Commonwealth is unsafe due to the presence of immigrants,
- terminating the Temporary Protected Status of our immigrant populations,
- withholding funds from our public schools,
- withholding funds from and attempting institution-wide censorship of our world-renowned educational, healthcare, and scientific institutions, and
- threatening military interventions to interrupt activities that are protected free speech under the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court and Congress have acquiesced to President Trump's abuse of powers, including recent Supreme Court decisions holding that:

- President Trump is "absolutely immune from criminal prosecution for conduct within his exclusive sphere of constitutional authority" [Trump v. United States, No. 23-939 (U.S. July 1, 2024)];
- the courts lack the authority to issue nationwide injunctions to block blatantly unconstitutional orders like President Trump's Executive Order ending birthright citizenship [Trump v. CASA, Inc., No. 24-884 (U.S. June 27, 2025)];
- President Trump was allowed to end the Temporary Protected Status of Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans [Noem v. National TPS Alliance, No. 24-1059 (U.S. May 19, 2025); Noem v. Doe, No. 24-1079 (U.S. May 30, 2025)]; while
- Congressional Republicans rejected a war powers resolution that would have let Congress decide whether President Trump could again strike Iran, declined to assert Congress's constitutional authority over spending or tariffs (i.e., taxation); and

WHEREAS, the actions of President Trump and his administration have led other U.S. jurisdictions to pass resolutions calling for an end to behavior that resembles that of an absolute ruler and tramples on the foundational principles of our Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General of Massachusetts, Andrea Joy Campbell, has sued the Trump administration numerous times to stop unconstitutional or otherwise illegal acts depriving Massachusetts residents and institutions of their civil rights or congressionally mandated funding; and

WHEREAS, many of the people of Leverett have repeatedly demonstrated their commitment to democracy and adherence to the Constitution through protests, rallies, and Resolutions, showing that they demand these principles;

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Leverett Selectboard, in the tradition of our forebears, do hereby resolve that the unconstitutional and unlawful actions of President Trump and his appointees should be condemned; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Massachusetts Congressional delegation to continue to push their Congressional colleagues to exercise their legislative authority to enforce the Constitution, to work with the Judicial Branch to restore the separation of powers, and to ensure that illegal or unconstitutional acts, including acts of corruption, are overturned; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Leverett Selectboard also commends the Honorable Maura Healey, Governor, and Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell, for their vigorous defense of the Constitution, our fellow citizens, and our public and private institutions in the Commonwealth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Leverett Town Administrator shall cause this Resolution to be submitted to U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, U.S. Senator Edward Markey, U.S. Representative James McGovern, and the other U.S. Representatives from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Governor Maura Healey, and Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell.

Signed this ____ day of _____ 2025, by

The Selectboard of the Town of Leverett, Massachusetts

Patricia Duffy, Chair

Tom Hankinson, Member

Jed Proujansky, Member