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Headline: Westwood's AAA Bond Rating Reaffirmed by S&P

Westwood (11/3/25) – As part of an upcoming bond sale, the Town underwent a credit review by Standard and Poor's (S&P). On October 30, S&P Global Ratings reaffirmed the Town of Westwood's AAA bond rating, which is the highest possible rating a municipality can receive.

"This reaffirmation reflects the Town's continued strong financial position, prudent management practices, and long-term commitment to fiscal discipline," said Finance Director, and Treasurer/Collector, Stephanie McManus.

In its report, S&P wrote that the AAA bond rating reflects the strength of the town's underlying economic metrics and stable financial performance. S&P also highlighted that Westwood has built up its reserves and maintains sound policies and budgeting practices describing the Town's budgeting assumptions as "realistic, with regular monitoring," and its financial performance as "sound, largely reflecting the general fund's stable revenue mix, primarily property taxes, and expenditures coming in under budget."

"The stable outlook reflects our view that the town will maintain a stable financial profile and consistent reserve position, supported by its robust management culture and stable taxing base," S&P wrote.

As part of the rating process, S&P conducts a detailed review of the Town's budget practices, financial policies, reserves, long-term planning, internal controls, and risk management are reviewed. Maintaining the highest possible rating allows the Town to borrow at the most favorable interest rates, lowering borrowing costs for capital projects and directly benefiting taxpayers.

Only a select number of Massachusetts municipalities—about 91 of 351—currently hold a AAA rating, placing Westwood among the top tier of fiscally responsible communities in the Commonwealth.

The reaffirmation of Westwood's AAA credit rating is a significant achievement and a reflection of the Town's continued fiscal strength, sound management practices, and community support. This highest possible rating is something all residents can take pride in.

The rating recognizes the professional and responsible way Westwood conducts its financial affairs — from thoughtful decision-making at Annual Town Meeting to the consistent and timely payment of tax bills by residents. The Select Board has maintained conservative, well-structured operating budgets while addressing other key areas of financial health, including capital investment, reserve accounts, debt management, and long-term liabilities.

This achievement represents a true town-wide effort, demonstrating the shared commitment of residents, elected officials, and staff to responsible stewardship of public resources and the long-term financial stability of Westwood.