



# Littleton TM Voting Format Presentation for Littleton Board of Selectman

by

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# Problem

- Declining tax payer participation in the passage of Town Meeting articles has steadily declined to only 4% from 24% over the decades.

# Objectives

1. Promote increase tax payer participation on voted town meeting articles.
2. Eliminate undue voter influence caused by article's position in TM warrant.
3. Speed up town meeting process.
4. Exercise secret ballot on important articles to prevent undue influence of voter intimidation.

# Proposal

1. For decisions on issues that have a major impact on the town, shift voting from floor at TM to a secret ballot vote on town election day.
2. Certain Warrant articles will be identified as “important” on the TM floor, either by Selectman or by town citizen’s response to Moderator’s query immediately prior to calling for a vote.
3. Televisе Town Meetings deliberations.
4. We are asking the Board of Selectman initiate necessary action to incorporate changes to Chapter 41, Town Meetings, in Littleton’s bylaws.

# Conclusion

- We feel strongly these points need BOS prompt deliberation and possible sub committee recommendation followed by incorporation in to voting bylaws.

# 10/18 BOS Meeting

- Will the Selectman authorize a committee to bring an article to TM with these objectives:
  - Enhance voter awareness.
    - Televised TM.
    - Pre Town Meeting Dialog
  - Widely increase voter participation.
    - Represent the general population.
    - Through leadership to empower voter decisions based on topic education and secret ballot casting.

# Ideal 7 Member Committee

- Appointments from several boards.
- Appointments from civic groups like
  - Democratic and Republican Town Committees
  - Senior Citizen's Group.
  - Others.
- Chairman needs to be neutral, macro-manager.
  - Members will work on individual tasks, reporting results at committee meetings.

# Additional Comments

- The committee will examine all methods to assign articles for secret ballot voting.
  - Possible exclude budget and capital programs under \$10,000 annually.
  - Guidelines for declaring secret ballot voting at TM.
  - Issues regarding special town meetings.
- Committee name should include “secret ballot”