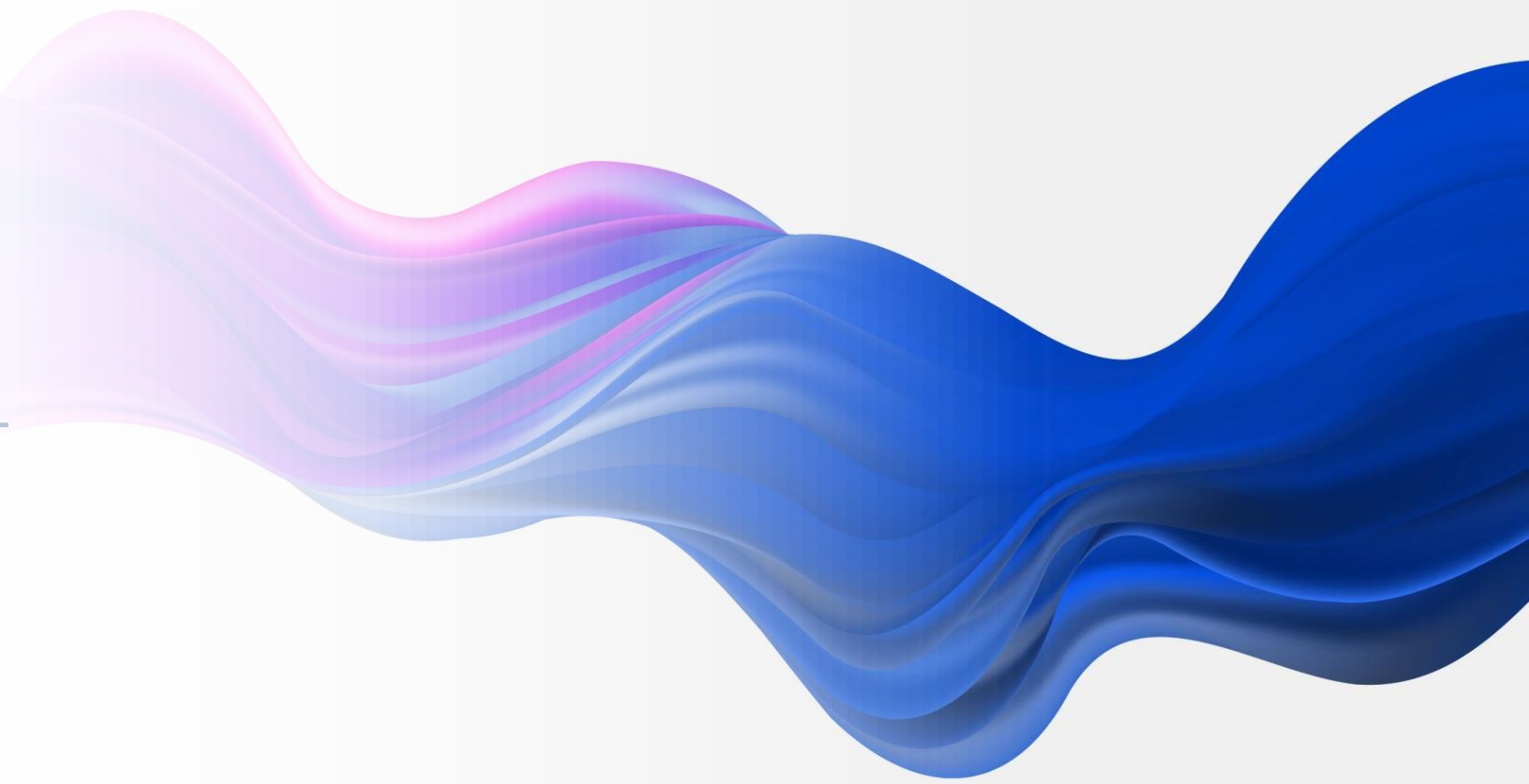


**Shall we adopt the
provisions of RSA 40:13
(known as SB 2) to
allow official ballot
voting on all issues
before the Town of
Enfield on the second
Tuesday of March?**

*This article has been placed on
the warrant by citizen-petition*



RSA 40:13 Use of Official Ballot

Town Meeting will be held in two sessions

First Session

held between the first and second Saturdays following the last Monday in January, inclusive of those Saturdays. Under SB2 in 2025 the first session would be held on or between February 1 and February 8

Second Session

The second session shall be held on the second Tuesday in March. In 2025 the second session would be held on March 11

What happens at the First Session?

- Explanation, discussion and debate of each warrant article as proposed by the Select Board or included by citizen petition.
- Warrant articles may be amended at this session subject to limitations:
 - Warrant articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended
 - Warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion, as amended
 - No warrant article shall be amended to eliminate the subject matter of the article. An amendment that changes the dollar amount of an appropriation in a warrant article shall not be deemed to violate this subparagraph.

What happens at the First Session?

- For adoption or amendment of an ordinance the ballot may contain a topical description of the substance of the ordinance or amendment instead of the full text
- When a topical description is used on the official ballot, an official copy of the proposed ordinance or amendment will be made publicly available
 - Not later than one week before the second session AND
 - On display at the second session

What happens at the Second Session?

- Vote by official ballot to elect officers of the Town
- Vote on all warrant articles from the First Session
- Approval of all warrant articles are by simple majority except for questions which require a 3/5 vote.
- If a 3/5 majority vote is required, it will be so noted on the warrant article.

Can I vote absentee?

- Under SB2, all registered voters are able to cast an Absentee Ballot if they are unable to make it to the polls.

What is a default budget?

If the operating budget article fails, the Town shall be deemed to have approved the default budget, or the Select Board may hold a special meeting to take up the issue of a revised operating budget.

- The “Default Budget” means the amount of the same appropriations as contained in the operating budget authorized for the previous year, reduced and increased, as the case may be, by debt service, contracts, and other obligations previously incurred or mandated by law, and reduced by one-time expenditures contained in the operating budget and by salaries and benefits of positions that have been eliminated in the proposed budget.

What is a default budget?

- In calculating the default budget amount, the Select Board, as the governing body, shall follow the statutory formula which may result in a higher or lower amount than the proposed operating budget.
- The default budget shall be disclosed and presented for questions and discussion at the first budget hearing.
- The question on the ballot concerning the operating budget will include the proposed budget as well as disclosure of the default budget in the event the article is defeated.

What is a default budget?

The Select Board will provide to the voters line-item details for changes, including at minimum:

- Appropriations contained in the previous years' operating budget
- Reductions and increases to the previous year's operating budget
- One-time expenditures
- Reductions for eliminated positions and benefit expenditures

New Deadlines

What	When
Final date to submit a petitioned warrant article (except for bonds over \$100,000)	Second Tuesday in January
Final date to submit a petitioned warrant article for bond in excess of \$100,000	Friday preceding second Tuesday in January
Budget Hearing	On or before the 3 rd Tuesday in January
Warrant & Budget posted & available	Last Monday in January
Final budgets and ballot questions printed in Town Report	Available at least one week before Second Session (Voting by Official Ballot)



**Questions?
Comments?**

