

SB2

Town Meeting 2022 - Article 16
Public Hearing Presentation

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AB0

Article 16:

Submitted by petition

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?

3/5 Majority Paper Ballot Vote Required

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Slide 2

ABO There was a typo on the warrant. 3/5 majority is needed vs 2/3.
This is a good time to mention it. Also, Lindsay has been informed
and will be reminded.

Alisa Bonnette, 2022-04-11T17:01:08.106

Explanation:

Provided by Petitioners:

“The simple argument is that voters should not be required to attend an all-day town meeting in order to vote on all money articles. Residents needing more information on a particular article may attend the deliberative session to ask questions, read the annual report for more details or call the town offices with questions. Simple!”

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Explanation:

From the Town – Town Meeting Under SB2:

- RSA 40:13 Use of Official Ballot
<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/III/40/40-13.htm>

The Town Meeting will be held in two sessions:

- First Session (Deliberative session)
 - For the transaction of all business other than voting by official ballot.
 - Will be held between the first and second Saturdays following the last Monday in January.
 - In 2023 the first session would be held between February 4 and February 11.
- Second Session (Voting day)
 - Shall utilize the official ballot for voting on all issues before the voters
 - The second session shall be held on the second Tuesday in March.

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Deliberative Session

- Will consist of explanation, discussion and debate of each warrant article.
- Warrant articles may be amended at this first session subject to the following 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 as amended.
 - No warrant article shall be amended to eliminate the subject matter of the article.
- 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 (a full copy will be made available at least one week prior to voting).

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Voting Day



The official ballot voting day to:

elect officers of the Town
to vote on questions required by law
to vote on all warrant articles from the first session



Same procedures as are currently used for voting by official ballot at Town Meeting.

absentee voting
polling place
polling hours

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Default Budget

- If the operating budget article fails, the Town shall be deemed to have approved the default budget, or the Board of Selectmen 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 the previous year, reduced and increased as case may be, by debt service, contracts and other obligations previously incurred or mandated by law, and reduced by on-time expenditures contained in the operating budget and by salaries and benefits of positions that have been eliminated in the proposed budget.

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Default Budget

- The default budget shall be disclosed and presented for questions and discussion at the first budget hearing, 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
- 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

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New Dates



Final dates for submission:

Petitioned articles – 2nd
Tuesday in January

Petitioned articles proposing a
bond in excess of \$100,000 –
Friday preceding 2nd Tuesday
in January



Budget Hearing

Held on or before the 3rd
Tuesday in January.



Warrants and budgets

Shall be posted and available to
the general public - by the last
Monday in January, prior to the
deliberative session.

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New Dates



Deliberative Session

Will be held between the
first and second Saturdays
following the last Monday
in January.

Between February 4 and
February 11, in 2023



Town Report

Available at least one
week before Voting Day



Voting Day

Held on or before the
3rd Tuesday in January.

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