

## WARRANT ARTICLE PROCESS: Guide for Petitioners

Citizens have the right to submit articles for consideration by the Town meeting. Such articles must be in writing and signed by ten or more registered voters for Annual Town Meeting (ATM) or 100 or more registered voters for Special Town Meeting (STM), using the attached form. All petitioners' articles must be submitted in accordance with the law on or before January 15 or such earlier time as may be fixed by the Board of Selectmen, and all such articles for Special Town Meeting must be so presented on or before the date fixed by the Selectmen for closing of the warrant for such meeting. All petitioners' articles having the required number of qualified signatures must be included in the Town Meeting Warrant by state statute.

**The Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee encourage citizens to work with appropriate Town boards to achieve their goals whenever possible before submitting petitioners' articles.**

### ATM Time Line and Process

Date	Action	Responsibility
December	<i>Hold a workshop for citizens interested in submitting petition for Annual Town Meeting.</i> Potential articles and the submission process may be discussed with the Selectmen and experienced volunteers.	Board of Selectmen
On or before January 15 or such earlier time as may be fixed by the Board of Selectmen	<i>Submit petitioners' articles for Annual Town Meeting both on paper with signatures and by email in Microsoft Word.</i> Articles are collected and numbered, and copies are given to the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, Moderator, and Town Counsel. Petitioners are encouraged to provide comments, arguments in favor, and arguments against their articles at the time of submission.	Town Administrator
January - March	<i>Review articles, determine their order, vote positions on most articles; may meet with petitioners</i> The Board may discuss substantive articles with petitioners or attend the Finance Committee's meeting with petitioners.	Board of Selectmen
January - March	<i>Study each petitioner's article and prepare a report for the Warrant</i> The Committee meets with petitioners to discuss their article. They may explore alternative means for accomplishing the article's objective. A member of the Committee is assigned to the article to prepare a report for the Warrant, including pro and con arguments and the Committee's recommendation.	Finance Committee
January - March	<i>Meet with Finance Committee and/or Board of Selectmen to discuss article; write report of no more than 150 words to be printed in the warrant if desired and if the Finance Committee prepares a report.</i> Such discussions help to identify issues that require further work on the part of the petitioner as well as to identify arguments for and against passage.	Petitioners
February	<i>Review articles for form and legal correctness, add required legal citation(s), indicating the quantum of vote required for Passage</i>	Town Counsel
Approximately 7 days prior to ATM	<i>Attend a warrant article hearing.</i> Petitioners should attend this hearing to review their warrant articles.	Selectmen with Moderator and Finance Committee
ATM	<i>Move the article and make a brief presentation on the merits of the article</i> Movers of articles have a limited amount of time to explain and present arguments in favor of passage of the article (currently 10 minutes). This presentation is made at the procedural (center) microphone. Petitioners may prepare handouts and slides. If the motion differs substantially from the article printed in the warrant, printed copies should be prepared for the moderator and made available for people attending Town Meeting.	Lead Petitioner or Sponsoring Board or Committee
ATM	<i>Consider each article at Annual Town Meeting</i> Citizens are encouraged to debate the merits of articles, ask questions, and make amendments when appropriate. Amendments should be legibly written for submission to the moderator and made available to people attending Town Meeting.	Town Meeting attendees

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING PETITIONERS ARTICLE FORM

**Lead Petitioner:** The lead petitioner will serve as spokesperson for the article and will be the contact for the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen, and by the Planning Board if the petition is a zoning issue.

**Date Received:** The date received will be stamped on the petition when it is received by the Town Administrator and forwarded to the Town Clerk for certification.

## PETITIONERS ARTICLE FOR WAYLAND TOWN MEETING

LEAD PETITIONER\_\_\_\_\_ DATE RECEIVED\_\_\_\_\_

DAY PHONE\_\_\_\_\_ EVENING PHONE\_\_\_\_\_

TITLE\_\_\_\_\_

TOWN BOARD/DEPARTMENT AFFECTED BY ARTICLE\_\_\_\_\_

ESTIMATED COST\_\_\_\_\_

ARTICLE: To determine whether the Town will vote to

**Add comments and pro and con arguments on the next page. Thank you.**

#	Print Name Legibly	Signature	Print Street Address
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			

# **PETITIONERS ARTICLE FOR WAYLAND TOWN MEETING**

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COMMENTS

PRO ARGUMENTS

CON ARGUMENTS