

Arlington Special Town Meeting — Motion to Amend

ARTICLE 13: HOME RULE LEGISLATION/RANKED CHOICE VOTING

Date: November 16, 2020

I, Paul Schlichtman, do hereby submit the following Motion to amend the Recommended Vote of the Select Board under Article 13:

By STRIKING the first two paragraphs of Section 8B, Ranked Choice Voting:

The offices of Select Board, School Committee, Town Clerk, Moderator, Housing Authority, and Assessor shall be elected by ranked choice voting at the annual election.

“Ranked choice voting” shall mean a method of casting and tabulating ballots in which voters rank candidates for office in order of preference. Ranked choice voting shall apply to a single-seat office only when the number of candidates exceeds two and to a multi-seat office when the number of candidates exceeds the number of seats to be elected. Ranked choice voting elections shall be tabulated in rounds as follows.

And INSERTING in its place:

The offices of Select Board, Town Clerk, Moderator, Housing Authority, and Assessor shall be elected by ranked choice voting at the annual election, provided that ranked choice voting shall not apply to races where more than one person is to be elected.

“Ranked choice voting” shall mean a method of casting and tabulating ballots in which voters rank candidates for office in order of preference. Ranked choice voting shall apply to a single-seat office only when the number of candidates exceeds two. Ranked choice voting elections shall be tabulated in rounds as follows.

And by STRIKING subsection (c) “In any multi-seat election...” in its entirety. and redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (c) and (d)

Signed:



Paul Schlichtman, Precinct 9

Date Voted: _____

Action Taken: _____

Rationale:

Proponents of the Ranked Choice Voting question on the state ballot specifically stated that, upon approval, Ranked-Choice Voting would be used only in races where a single candidate is to be declared the winner and not in races where more than one person is to be elected.

Ranked Choice Voting, when applied to a race in which one person is to be elected, would require a majority of voters to elect a candidate. Ranked Choice Voting, in races where more than one person is to be elected, substantially changes the dynamics of the race. Instead of having multiple votes to distribute among multiple candidates, Ranked Choice Voting would provide voters with only one vote that would be awarded based on the preferences indicated on the ballot.