

ARTICLE: VOTE/ELECTION MODERNIZATION COMMITTEE

To see if the Town will vote to extend the life of the Election Modernization Committee, change its structure, objectives, or membership, or take any action related thereto.

DRAFT MOTION:

"VOTED: That Town Meeting hereby amends its vote on Article 36 of the 2019 Town Meeting, wherein the "Election Modernization Study Committee" was formed, by renaming the committee to the "Election Modernization Committee" and by extending the date of the Committee's dissolution to the close of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

Further, the committee membership shall be changed to consist of the following fifteen (15) members, all of whom shall be voting members:

- The Town Clerk or their designee
- One member of the Board of Registrars or their designee, as determined by such Board;
- One member of the Select Board or their designee, as determined by such Board;
- The Town Moderator or their designee;
- One member of the School Committee or their designee, as determined by the Committee;
- One member of the Disability Commission or their designee as determined by the Commission;
- One representative of the Republican Town Committee;
- One representative of the Democratic Town Committee;
- Five residents to be appointed by the Town Moderator;
- One member of the Arlington League of Women Voters or their designee, as determined by that organization;
- One resident under the age of 25 to be appointed by the Select Board."

A majority of the members of the Election Modernization Committee shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE: ARTICLE: HOME RULE LEGISLATION/CONSOLIDATION OF TOWN MEETING MEMBER ELECTIONS

To see if the Town will vote to authorize and request the Select Board to file Home Rule Legislation to reform the nomination and election process for Town Meeting seats to permit the consolidation of elections of Town Meeting Members when there are vacant seats into a single election per precinct, such that the highest vote-getters win the longest available terms, to promulgate regulations to effectuate the same, or take any action related thereto.

DRAFT MOTION:

"VOTED: That the Town does hereby request and authorize the Select Board to file Home Rule Legislation to provide substantially as follows:

"AN ACT AMENDING THE TOWN MANAGER ACT OF ARLINGTON RELATIVE TO THE ELECTION OF TOWN MEETING MEMBERS"

Section 1. Chapter 503 of the Acts of 1952 (The Town Manager Act of Arlington) as subsequently amended, is hereby amended by renumbering Sections 9 through 44, and all references thereto, as Sections 10 through 45, respectively, and by adding the following new Section 9.

Section 9. Election of Town Meeting

The election of the members of Town Meeting shall continue as presently provided subject to the following exception.

In the event of a vacancy or vacancies in the office of town meeting member, the Town Clerk shall determine the number of full terms and the number of unexpired terms to be filled at the Annual Election of town meeting members. The ballot shall indicate the total number of town meeting members to be elected, and the candidates shall be listed together on the ballot. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to the 3-year terms to be filled at the election; the candidates receiving the next highest number of votes shall be elected to the 2-year terms to be filled at the election; and the candidates receiving the next highest number of votes shall be elected to the 1-year terms to be filled at the election. In case of a tie vote affecting the division of terms, the members elected from the precinct, including those receiving the same number of votes to gain election, shall by a precinct ballot administered by the Town Clerk, determine the division.

Section 2. This Act shall take effect upon its passage.”

ARTICLE: HOME RULE LEGISLATION/RANKED CHOICE VOTING

To see if the Town will vote to authorize and request the Select Board to file Home Rule Legislation to elect Town offices by Ranked Choice Voting, or take any action related thereto.

DRAFT MOTION:

“VOTED: That the Town does hereby request and authorize the Select Board to file Home Rule Legislation to provide substantially as follows:

“AN ACT AMENDING THE TOWN MANAGER ACT OF ARLINGTON RELATIVE TO RANKED CHOICE VOTING”

Section 1. Chapter 503 of the Acts of 1952 (The Town Manager Act of Arlington) as subsequently amended, is hereby amended by renumbering Sections 10 through 44, and all references thereto, as Sections 11 through 45, respectively, and by adding the following new Section 10.

Section 10. Ranked Choice Voting

The method of casting and tabulating votes shall continue as presently provided subject to the following exception.

When the number of candidates for town-wide office exceeds two and exceeds the number of seats to be filled, that office shall be elected by ranked choice voting. “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 elections shall be tabulated in rounds using the single transferable vote method, wherein winning thresholds are calculated based on the number of countable votes and the number of seats to be filled. A ranked choice voting ballot shall not interfere with a voter's ability to rank write-in candidates.

Section 2. This Act shall take effect upon its passage.”