



**Town of Arlington  
Legal Department**

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To: Select Board

From: Douglas W. Heim, Town Counsel

Date: November 4, 2021

**Re: 2022 Town Warrant & Town Election Schedule**

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Members of the Board, please receive this Memorandum as a refresher and/or primer for your votes to set the opening and closing dates of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and the date of the 2022 Annual Town Election.

**Legal Timeline: the Warrant, Town Elections, and Town Meeting**

1. Opening and Closing of the Warrant. Pursuant to Town Bylaws the Warrant for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting must open no later than the first week in December 2021, and may not close earlier than the last Friday in January of 2022 (January 28, 2022). Title 1, Article 1, § 2 of the Town Bylaws).

2. Posting of the Warrant. The warrant must be available at least seven (7) days before the Town Election. Town Bylaws, Title I, Article 1, Section 2; G.L. c. 39, § 10.

However, the warrant must also be submitted to the printer at least two weeks ahead of the date targeted for distribution.

3.     Election. Under the Town Bylaws, the annual Town Election is to be held on the first Saturday in April (April 2, 2022) unless the Select Board votes, on or before February 1, 2022 to choose another date “*in order to better suit the public convenience for reasons it shall determine including, but not limited to, conflicts with the observance of religious holidays.*” Town Bylaws, Title I, Article 1, Section 1. Any other date may be chosen as long as the election occurs before Town Meeting begins so that Town Meeting members are in place.

4.     Town Meeting. Town Meeting must start the fourth Monday in April (April 25, 2015). Town Bylaws, Title I, Article 1, Section 1.

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I am happy to discuss further practical and legal implications of specific Town Election dates at the Board’s November 8, 2021 Meeting. However, in the meantime, I hope this memorandum proves useful in your consideration of warrant and election dates.