

**TOWN OF BUCKFIELD
TOWN MEETING
WARRANT ARTICLE POLICY**

1. PURPOSE

To provide the Board of Selectmen with a standard procedure on the inclusion of Articles for a Town Meeting Warrant.

2. PETITION REQUIRED

- A. When a Buckfield voter or voters, hereinafter referred to as Petitioner(s) want an Article included in a Town Meeting Warrant, a written voter petition signed by a number of voters equal to at least 10% of votes cast in the Town in the last gubernatorial election, but in no case less than ten (10), the Board of Selectmen shall include the petitioned-for Article in the next Town Meeting Warrant or within sixty (60) days call a Special Town Meeting for that Article's consideration. In either case, the Board of Selectmen will have the final say on setting the date, time and location for Town Meeting.
- B. Unless a Special Town Meeting must be called for the petitioned-for Article's consideration, any and all petitioned-for Article(s) must be submitted to the Board of Selectmen or the Town Clerk at least forty-five (45) days prior to the date of voting.
- C. If the Board of Selectmen unreasonably refuse to call a Town Meeting requested by a valid written voter petition, a notary public may call the Town Meeting in accordance with 30-A MRSA §2521. However, the final determination of what is reasonable or unreasonable refusal and the legality of any action taken at such Meeting can only be made by a Court.
- D. If said petition calls for an illegal act, is a reconsideration of recent Town Meeting action, is incomplete or unintelligible, the Board of Selectmen have authority to refuse including it in the Warrant since it will not be effective even if adopted.
- E. If said petition is ambiguous or poorly worded, the circulators of the petition will be notified that there is a problem with the proposed Article. The circulators can redraft the Article and commence the petition process again or take the risk that the ambiguous Article may not be valid if adopted. The Board of Selectmen also reserve the right to include, on their own initiative, an alternative Article.

- F. A Board, Committee, or Commission appointed by the Board of Selectmen to act in the Town's best interest may, by majority vote, submit Article(s) for inclusion in a Town Meeting Warrant without a written voter petition(s). However, should the Board of Selectmen determine said Article would not be in the best interest of the Town, a valid written voter petition must be submitted. The Board of Selectmen's determination must be by majority vote at a duly called Board of Selectmen Meeting.
- G. The Board of Selectmen, elected to act in the Town's best interest may, by majority vote, submit Article(s) for inclusion in a Town Meeting Warrant without written voter petition(s).

3. PETITION CONTENTS

- A. The Town Clerk shall make available petition forms upon request.
- B. The circulator(s) will be responsible for the wording of the Article(s) being petitioned.

4. CONFLICTING PROVISION

Whenever the Policy made under the authority hereof differ from those described by any federal or state statute or is not specifically included in this Policy, the statute will govern.

5. POLICY EFFECTIVE DATE

The Board of Selectmen adopted this Policy by majority vote at a duly called Meeting on March 14, 2003. The Board of Selectmen, by majority vote, reserve the right to amend or repeal this Policy.