

Procedural Notes for Town Meeting

At the 2/2/26 Selectboard meeting there were some questions and comments made by the Selectboard and citizens regarding options for handling Article 3 at the 2026 Town Meeting. Town Moderator Clint Buxton was in attendance at that meeting and gave input as to how he would handle the Article and he offers the following written guidance.

Please note, each year, in his opening remarks at Town Meeting, Moderator Buxton reviews these procedures such that the assembled are aware, educated and informed. This written summary is being provided in advance of the 2026 Town Meeting due to the large number of procedural questions at the 2/2/26 Selectboard meeting.

- Resources:
 - Roberts Rules of Order (12th edition)
 - [Vermont Moderator Handbook](#) (from Secretary of State's office)
 - Vermont State Statutes
 - <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/>
 - VLCT Website
 - 2026 VLCT Town Moderator Workshop

- Articles must be moved and seconded onto the floor

- Discussion can then take place (The Moderator will remind citizens that there is a time limit and restrictions on reading from printed material)
 - Discussion continues until everyone has had the opportunity to speak once on the subject
 - Speakers may speak twice on the subject (but only after everyone else has gone once)

- Other potential procedures
 - Passover, table, or Postpone indefinitely: The proper term is Postpone indefinitely
 - This requires a Second.
 - The merits of the question ARE debatable
 - It is NOT amendable
 - It requires a MAJORITY to postpone indefinitely
 - If the Article is postponed indefinitely it could be added to a future Town Meeting if the Selectboard chooses to do so.

- Amendments
 - This requires a Second
 - The merits of the question ARE debatable
 - It is amendable (ONCE)
 - It requires a MAJORITY to adopt amendment

- Call the Question (Cease Debate)
 - This requires a Second
 - The merits of the question are NOT debatable
 - It is NOT amendable
 - It requires a 2/3rds MAJORITY to cease debate

- Paper Ballot
 - VERMONT STATE LAW ([17 VSA 2658](#)) provides for a PAPER BALLOT vote on the request of SEVEN MEMBERS of the body