

A CITIZEN PETITION ABOUT ELECTRONIC VOTING DEVICES AT AYER TOWN MEETING



Meridia EZ-Vote 5

Using electronic voting devices at Town Meeting can **improve the experience for residents, by protecting their privacy and letting them see the vote for themselves.** Many Massachusetts Town Meetings now use electronic voting devices. This includes Groton, Littleton, Harvard, Lancaster, Lunenburg - all the towns immediately around us except Shirley.

Privacy

Residents can vote anonymously just by pressing a hand-held clicker. No voice vote in front of your boss, neighbor, colleague or family member. No one has to vote no in silence after all the yes votes. No stress.

No Herd Voting

There are no loud voices to sway the vote when you use electronic voting devices. When town committee and board members sit on stage and vote, their voices won't carry over the meeting.

Integrity of the Vote

Electronic voting is more accurate and precise than a voice vote a moderator calls from the front of the room. And if residents don't want to vote, electronic voting devices can identify and count abstentions. We can feel better saying, "Town Meeting supported this," rather than just, "This passed."

Instant Count, Improved Town Meeting Experience and Efficiency

- Faster voting saves time for more discussion or to finish earlier.
- Eliminates the need for secret ballots.
- Using electronic voting devices counters the perception of a slow meeting, which can discourage residents from attending.
- Helps new members learn and process what is happening.

Every Vote is Counted

With electronic voting devices, residents can vote and be counted. For instance, say 40 residents vote no. An article may still pass, but this gives the town Select Board and others feedback for next time.

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ONE SENTIMENT TO CONSIDER

“Electronic Voting has clearly fulfilled its original promise of speed, accuracy, and privacy. More importantly, it has facilitated *a more relaxed, deliberate, and methodical Town Meeting; decisions made in this environment are better, to the benefit of every Wayland citizen* – whether they attend Town Meeting or not.”

- Wayland Town Report, 2017

2017 Annual Reports	TOWN OF WAYLAND
<p>Two notable improvements – electronic check-in and the random audit -- have been implemented, along with a significant strengthening of procedures to prevent proxy voting. The “How to Vote Electronically” and “Electronic Voting Procedures Handbook” documents have been continuously updated to reflect these improvements, along with several smaller optimizations suggested by public comments and in-meeting experience. Only one electronic voting handset has been lost.</p> <p>Electronic Voting has clearly fulfilled its original promise of speed, accuracy, and privacy. More importantly, it has facilitated a more relaxed, deliberate, and methodical Town Meeting; decisions made in this environment are better, to the benefit of every Wayland citizen – whether they attend Town Meeting or not.</p>	<p>with negotiating union contracts. All six collective bargaining agreements expired on June 30, 2017. The Board is engaged in bargaining with all of the unions.</p> <p>Throughout the year, a variety of employment issues affecting employees were addressed. Topics included but were not limited to collective bargaining grievances, the creation of new positions and accompanying job descriptions, reviews of current job descriptions, reviews of job classifications and wage rates. The Board continues to maintain a posture of strict interpretation of the collective bargaining language.</p> <p>The Town continued to support its Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for all employees who may be in need of assistance with personal problems, work-related issues, legal or financial matters.</p> <p>The Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) provided a variety of training opportunities for various employees through its insurance Rewards Program. Participation in the MIIA programs continues to earn the Town credits towards its annual liability insurance premiums. Wayland also participates in training opportunities through a collective of nearby communities which pool training funds.</p> <p>The Personnel Board would like to thank all boards,</p>
<p>PERSONNEL BOARD</p> <p>Chapter 43 of the Code of the Town of Wayland defines the role of the Personnel Board to be the development and administration of the Wage and Salary Classification Plan and personnel policies and procedures in cooperation with the affected town boards and departments. In addition, the Board is charged with approving all pay or classification changes of town employees; negotiating collective bargaining agreements for the town; establishing and maintaining central personnel files for all employees; reviewing the operation of the Wage and Salary Classification Plan and recommending appropriate</p>	