

Select Board Update

February 9, 2026

Town Meeting Study Committee

- Findings and Recommendations
- Town Meeting Presentation Approach
- Next Steps

DRAFT

Key Findings

- Lincoln Town Meeting participation is 55% higher than our neighbors, yet averages only 8.4% of voters over the last 10 years
- Overall, existing processes serve the Town well for the typical Town Meeting
- Significant feedback suggests that those processes are strained when there is a major issue on the Warrant
- Feedback from the community:
 - Preserve & enhance existing Town Meeting traditions & improvements
 - Reduce the length of Town Meeting
 - Present motions in a fair and balanced manner
 - Improve Town Meeting access and voting
 - Reduce Town Meeting confusion and discomfort

Preserve and enhance existing Town Meeting traditions and improvements

- **Community Building Opportunities**
- **Resident question/comment/deliberation**
- **Consent Calendar**
- **Clickers for Voting**
- **Town Meeting Primer**
- **Meeting Metrics and Satisfaction Survey**

Reduce the length of Town Meeting

- **Clickers for voting**
- **Citizen Comments: enforce 2 minute time limit, visible timer**
- **Podium speakers:**
 - **Enforce time limit, visible timer**
 - **Encourage Warrant Article sponsors to limit number of speakers**
 - **Note other boards/committees who support the article on a slide**

Present motions in a balanced & fair manner

- **For contentious issues, encourage sponsor to publicize & hold an open forum for two-way discussion & feedback, once implications are known and prior to Town Meeting**
- **Allow differing views from the podium when conditions are met**
 - **Pro/Con summary printed in the Warrant**
 - **Presentation with slides from the podium**
 - **Pro/Con microphones**

Improve Town Meeting access and voting

- **Shuttle service for high turnout meetings**
- **Continue A/V investment across spaces**
- **Remind hearing impaired of available technology**
- **Voting**
 - **Schedule contentious items first**
- **Future Voting Options to Consider**
 1. **Scheduled voting time for contentious issues – requires a Lincoln by-law change**
 2. **Remote Voting – requires a State law change and a by-law change; Monitor Wayland Progress**

Reduce Town Meeting confusion and discomfort

- **Identify or establish a group to undertake the systematic educational outreach work recommended here**
- **Create educational and informational material in multiple modalities**
- **Ensure the content reaches audiences broadly throughout Town**
- **Undertake ongoing, directed outreach to new residents & voters**
- **Solicit feedback and revise materials for clarity and effectiveness**
- **Use real-time education and reminders within Town Meeting**
- **Use clickers for contentious votes to support voter anonymity**

Approach for Town Meeting Presentation

- **Quick reminder of our charge**
- **Present slides from Select Board presentation**
- **Citizen comment period**

Next Steps

- **Hold a community information session to review recommendations and answer questions**
 - **In-person session in morning, zoom that night**
 - **When should we do this?**
- **Complete final written report**

TMSC Findings & Recommendations

Reduce Length of Town Meeting

- Clickers for voting
- Citizen Comments: visible timer
- Podium speakers: time limit, visible timer
- Limit Warrant Article speakers to main Sponsor – note others who support the article on a slide

Present Motions In A Fair & Balanced Manner

- For contentious issues, publicize & hold open forum for discussion & feedback prior to TM
- Allow differing views when conditions are met
 - Pro/Con summary printed in the Warrant
 - Presentation with slides from the podium
 - Pro/Con microphones

Preserve and Enhance Existing Town Meeting Traditions

- Community Building Opportunities
- Consent Calendar
- Resident question/comment/deliberation
- Clickers for Voting
- Town Meeting Primer
- Gather Meeting Metrics and Satisfaction Survey

Improve Town Meeting Access and Voting

- Schedule contentious items first
- Scheduled voting time for contentious issues
- Remote Voting – Monitor Wayland Progress
- Shuttle service for high turnout meetings
- Continue A/V investment across spaces
- Remind hearing impaired of available tech

Reduce Town Meeting Confusing & Discomfort

- Implement educational outreach work
- Deliver materials in multiple modalities
- Reach audiences broadly throughout Town
- Directed outreach to new residents & voters
- Revise materials for clarity and effectiveness
- Use real-time education within Town Meeting
- Use clickers to support voter anonymity