

Town Meeting Update

March 29, 2025

Town Meeting Study Committee

- Introduction to our work
- Feedback & recommendations to date
- Our work ahead
- How you can help

Town Meeting Study Committee Members

- Ariane Liazos
- Jennifer Morris-Gundy
- Kenny Mitchell
- Taylor Ortiz
- Andrew Pang
- Ben Shiller
- Andy Wang
- Sarah Cannon Holden – Town Moderator
- Jim Hutchinson – Select Board Representative
- Tim Higgins – Town Administrator, Ex-officio Member

TMSC Charge & Timeline

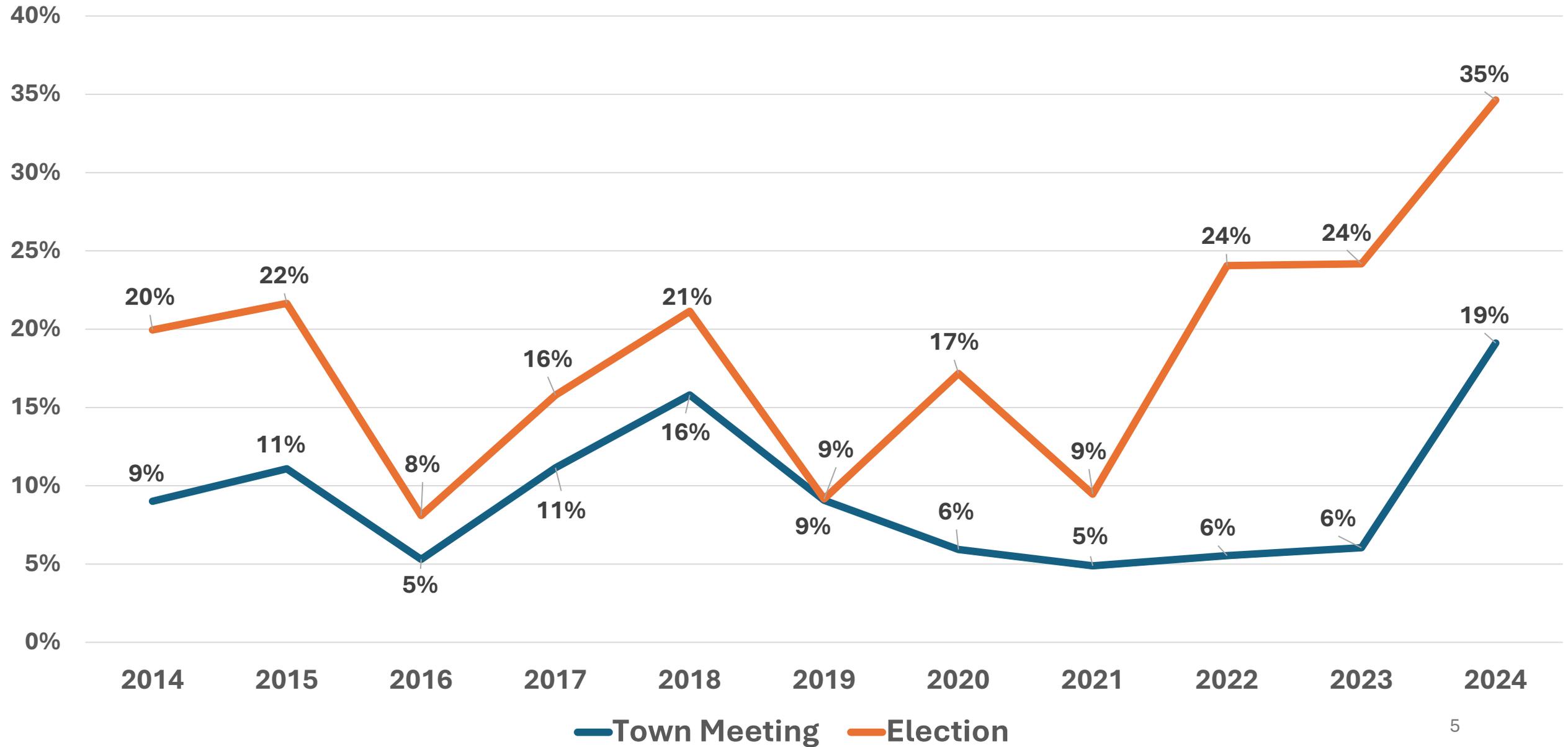
- Conduct a thorough study of current Town Meeting processes and procedures, including those leading up to Town Meeting
- Educate residents on how the system currently works
- Learn from the best practices of other communities and municipal experts
- Review Lincoln voter participation data versus neighboring towns
- Seek Town resident input, including a Town-wide survey
- Determine what's working well and identify recommendations
- Prepare a report for the Select Board and Moderator
 - Interim report: March 29, 2025
 - Final report: October 2025
 - Report to residents: November/December 2025 at SOTT meeting

Town Meeting Study Committee Organization

- Outreach & Engagement
- Efficiency & Effectiveness
- Education
- Moderator Role & Process
- Meeting Accessibility
- Alternative Viewpoints
- Separate Deliberation and Scheduled Voting
- Remote Participation & Remote Voting

Town of Lincoln Annual Participation %

Keep this slide???



Moderator's Meeting

Why don't they publicize the meeting?

It seems like attendance is limited to those on the "inside"

The Moderator's Meeting is a mystery to me

- Meeting publicized and explained : Lincoln Talk, Lincoln Squirrel, Town Website
- Meeting held in a hybrid fashion to allow greater access and is open to all

Town Meeting Process and Procedures

I don't understand Town Meeting terminology

How do I:
make a comment,
propose an
amendment, call
the question

The processes
and procedures
of Town Meeting
are confusing

- Town Meeting Primer created
- Posted to the Town Meeting website
- Please give us feedback

Town Meeting Presentations and Comments

Presentations seem to drag on – do they have a time limit?

Some people seem to get more time than others...

Why do comments end when there are still people at the mikes?

- Presentation time set at Moderator's Meeting
- Timer will be displayed for all presentations, as well as the 2 minute citizen comment period
- Moderator maintains discretion on time

What should happen when a speaker exceeds their time allotment?

1. Moderator politely reminds speaker time is done
2. Final Jeopardy music
3. The Oscars “Get Off the Stage” music
4. Lincoln Mall broken railroad crossing signal
5. Codman Farm Concerto #5



Town Meeting Voting

Standing vote
takes too long
to count!

Public voting
puts pressure
on people

I want to stand
and see how
others are
voting

- Electronic clickers are now an option for the Town Moderator
- Ensures that you only vote once
- Voting is private

Alternative Viewpoints

Alternative viewpoints are ignored and sidelined

Access is unfair & stacked against alternate views

Process exists for alternative views and is sufficient

Noise is based on one issue

- Developed initial list of ideas
- Seek community input – outreach, survey
- Develop criteria/rules/guidelines for access
- Create list of pros and cons

Separate Deliberation and Scheduled Voting

We can't sit there all day – we have family commitments

Scheduling votes will increase voter participation

Almost everyone knows how they will vote on an issue

If separate, attendance will fall further and have uninformed voters

- Developed initial list of ideas
- Seek community input – outreach, survey
- A number of issues to work through
- Create list of pros and cons

Remote Participation & Remote Voting

While I can view from home on TV, why can't I make a comment?

The technology must exist to allow remote voting

Remote participation & voting will increase participation

This will hurt community building

- Researched the work of other Towns
- Seek community input – outreach, survey
- Will require State approval – no one currently doing this in MA
- Understand cost, security concerns, create list of pros and cons



Other Work On Our List

- Research speaker disclosure guidelines
- Conduct outreach sessions
- Develop Town-wide survey with consultant
- Develop post Town Meeting satisfaction survey
- Evaluate and prioritize meeting accessibility recommendations
- Prepare Final Report

Where to find the latest information? Town Website!

The image shows a screenshot of the Lincoln 250 website. On the left is a green navigation menu with various services. A red arrow points from the main title to the 'Town Meeting Study Committee' link in the menu. A red box highlights this link. The main content area shows the breadcrumb trail 'Home > Government > Select Board > Town Meeting Study Committee', the page title 'Town Meeting Study Committee', and a list of links including 'Evaluation Criteria Draft', 'Town Meeting Study Committee Schedule, Agendas, Zoom Links', and several 'Select Board Update Draft' links. A list of dates under 'Agendas:' is also visible. On the right, there is a 'Contact Us' section with contact information for the committee, at-large members, town moderator, select board representative, and town administrator.

Lincoln 250

Online Bill Pay

GIS

Town Meeting Study Committee

Town Meeting 2025

Town Videos

Annual Town Meeting

Town Meeting Study Committee

Discover Lincoln

Hanscom North Field Expansion Project

Select Board Newsletters

IDEA

Landfill Solar Project

Housing Choice Act Working Group

2023 Climate Action Plan

Home > Government > Select Board > Town Meeting Study Committee

Town Meeting Study Committee

[Evaluation Criteria Draft](#)

[Town Meeting Study Committee Schedule, Agendas, Zoom Links](#)

[Select Board Update Draft 02112025](#)
[Select Board Update Draft 02242025](#)
[Select Board Update Draft 03062025](#)

Agendas:

- [11/07/24](#)
- [11/21/24](#)
- [11/26/24](#)
- [12/03/24](#)
- [12/11/24](#)
- [12/21/24](#)
- [01/03/25](#)
- [01/06/25](#)
- [01/08/25](#)
- [01/21/25](#)
- [02/25/25](#)

Contact Us

How to Contact the Committee:

TMSC@lincolntown.org

At-Large Members

Jennifer Gundy
Ariane Liazos
Kenny Mitchell
Taylor Ortiz
Andrew Pang
Ben Shiller
Andy Wang

Town Moderator

Sarah Cannon-Holden

Select Board Representative

Jim Hutchinson

Town Administrator

Tim Higgins

How can you help?

- Review the Town Meeting Primer and provide feedback
- Attend a committee/subcommittee meeting
- Send us your ideas and suggestions for improvement
- Fill out the town-wide survey – your input matters!
- Bring a friend to the next State of the Town and Town Meeting