
[LOCAL APPROVAL]

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

May 15, 1979

This is to attest to Article 27 of the Town Meeting of April 28, 1979 of the Town of Greenfield held at the Senior High School, Greenfield, Mass. at which a quorum was present.

Article 27: To see if the Town will vote, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereof, to instruct its State Representative and Senator of the General Court of the Commonwealth to initiate special legislation to amend Chapter 440 of the Acts of 1921 as most recently amended by Chapter 391 of the Acts of 1951, such amendments to read as follows:

C. To amend Section 8 to read as follows:

No article in the warrant shall at any representative town meeting be finally disposed of by a vote to pass over, to lay upon the table, to indefinitely postpone or to take no action thereon. No vote passed at any representative town meeting under any article in the warrant, except a vote to adjourn or a vote for the temporary borrowing of money in anticipation of taxes, shall be operative until after the expiration of five days, exclusive of Sundays and holidays, from the dissolution of the meeting. If, within said five days, a petition, signed by not less than five percent of the total registered voters of the town, containing their names and addresses, as they appear on the list of voters, is filed with the selectmen requesting that the question or questions involved in such vote be submitted to the voters of the town at large, then the selectmen, within eight days after the filing of the petition, shall call a special meeting, which shall be held within ten days after the issuing of the call, for the sole purpose of presenting to the voters at large the question or questions so involved. The polls shall be open at two o'clock in the afternoon, and shall be closed not earlier than eight o'clock in the evening, and all votes upon any questions so submitted shall be taken by ballot, and the

check list shall be used in the several precincts in the same manner as in the election of town officers. The questions so submitted shall be determined by a majority vote of the registered voters of the town voting thereon, but no action of the town meeting shall be reversed unless at least twenty per cent of all the registered voters shall vote in such referendum. Each question so submitted shall be in the form of the following question, which shall be placed upon the official ballot: — "Shall the town vote to approve the action of the representative town meeting, whereby it was voted (brief description of the substance of the vote)?" If such petition is not filed within said period of five days, the vote of the representative town meeting shall become operative and effective upon the expiration of said period.

This was passed by a majority vote.

A true copy attest:

JANICE E. PRESCOTT

Town Clerk of Greenfield, Mass.

By Mr. Olver, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1908) of John W. Olver and William D. Benson (by vote of the town) for legislation relative to petitions that questions involved in a vote of the representative town meeting in the town of Greenfield be submitted to the voters at large in said town. Local Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-nine.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO PETITIONS THAT QUESTIONS INVOLVED IN A VOTE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING IN THE TOWN OF GREENFIELD BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS AT LARGE IN SAID TOWN.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 440 of the acts of 1921 is hereby amended by strik-
2 ing out section 8 as amended by section 1 of chapter 391 of
3 the acts of 1957, and inserting in place thereof the following
4 section: —

5 *Section 8.* "No article in the warrant shall at any repre-
6 sentative town meeting be finally disposed of by a vote to pass
7 over, to lay upon the table, to indefinitely postpone or to take
8 no action thereon. No vote passed at any representative town
9 meeting under any article in the warrant, except a vote to ad-
10 journ or a vote for temporary borrowing of money in an-
11 ticipation of taxes, shall be operative until after the expira-
12 tion of five days, exclusive of Sundays and holidays, from the
13 dissolution of the meeting. If within said five days a petition,
14 signed by not less than five percent of the total registered
15 voters of the town, containing their names, and addresses, as
16 they appear on the list of voters, is filed with the selectmen
17 requesting that the question or questions involved in such
18 vote be submitted to the voters of the town at large, then the
19 selectmen, within eight days after the filing of the petition,
20 shall call a special meeting, which shall be held within ten
21 days after the issuing of the call, for the sole purpose of pre-
22 senting to the voters at large the question or questions so
23 involved. The polls shall be open at two o'clock in the after-

24 noon, and shall be closed not earlier than eight o'clock in the
25 evening, and all votes upon questions so submitted shall be
26 taken by ballot, and the check list shall be used in the several
27 precincts in the same manner as in the election of town of-
28 ficers. The questions so submitted shall be determined by a
29 majority vote of the registered voters of the town voting
30 thereon, but no action of the town meeting shall be reversed
31 unless at least twenty percent of all the registered voters
32 shall vote in such referendum. Each question so submitted
33 shall be in the form of the following question, which shall be
34 placed upon the official ballot: — "Shall the town vote to
35 approve the action of the representative town meeting, where-
36 by it was voted (brief description of the substance of the
37 vote)?" If such petition is not filed within said period of five
38 days, the vote of the representative town meeting shall be-
39 come operative and effective upon the expiration of said
40 period.