

[LOCAL APPROVAL]

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS 01002

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

May 2, 4, 9, 11, 12, 16, 18, 23, 1977

Article 21. Voted as amended:

Whereas, the Town has voted on numerous occasions in the past to petition its local, state, and national representatives, while expressing the belief that most such petitions ought more properly to be voted on by all of the Town's registered voters; and

Whereas, Article 54, "The Public Policy Question Act," submitted to the General Court by a vote of the May 21st Session of the Annual Town Meeting of 1975, was not approved of because of certain imperfections; and

Whereas, an Act "Clarifying the Procedure for Nonbinding Public Opinion Advisory Questions on Local Ballots" passed in 1976 by the General Court amending Chapter 53 by inserting Section 18A does not provide a sufficiently viable ballot alternative to those who presently petition the Town to render its opinion on public policy questions;

Now, Therefore, will the Town vote to instruct the Board of Selectmen to submit a petition to the General Court and thereafter to lobby for passage of an act in substantially the following form, to be entitled: "*The Public Policy Question Act of 1977.*"

A true copy, attest:

CORNELIA D. COMO,
Acting Town Clerk
Amherst, Mass.

By Mr. Olver, a petition of John W. Olver and James G. Collins for legislation to authorize the town of Amherst to place public policy questions on the ballot. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF AMHERST TO PLACE PUBLIC POLICY QUESTIONS ON THE BALLOT.

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

1 SECTION 1. Definition. The people of Amherst may exercise
 2 their right to have the Town vote to petition its local, state, and/or
 3 national representative(s) by placing public policy questions on the
 4 ballot at annual town elections and voting thereon. All such votes
 5 will be advisory and not binding.

1 SECTION 2. Qualification. A public policy advisory question
 2 may be placed on the annual town election ballot by vote of the
 3 Board of Selectmen, by vote of the annual or special town meeting,
 4 or by petition according to the following procedure:

5 A proposal to place a public policy advisory question on the
 6 annual town election ballot may be presented to the Selectmen by a
 7 petition signed by at least twenty-five (25) registered voters of the
 8 town. If the Board of Selectmen shall not approve the petition, the
 9 petitioners may place said public policy question on the annual
 10 town election ballot by submitting to the Board of Registrars a
 11 petition containing an additional one hundred (100) signatures of
 12 registered voters of the town not less than thirty (30) days before
 13 the annual town election. Upon certification of the necessary
 14 signatures, the Board of Registrars shall submit the proposed
 15 question to the Board of Selectmen for preparation, and thereafter
 16 shall cause the question to be placed on the ballot of next annual
 17 town election.

1 SECTION 3. Preparation. It shall be the responsibility of the
2 Board of Selectmen to provide the Town Clerk with a fair, clear
3 and concise summary of each public policy question for inclusion
4 on the ballot of the annual town election. Such a summary shall
5 read where appropriate, "Shall the Town of Amherst instruct its
6 representative(s) to . . ."

1 SECTION 4. Notification. It shall be the responsibility of the
2 Board of Selectmen to inform the petitioned representative(s) of
3 the vote on a public policy question within ten days of the
4 certification of the results of said vote.

