



Town of Panton Chartered 1761

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July 10, 2018

Dear Fellow Residents,

Your Selectboard wants to notify you of a very important Town meeting that will take place on **Monday, July 23, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Panton Town Hall. Please take the time to attend. It could change the way your town conducts its business.**

The purpose of this meeting is to consider three articles that we believe will be extremely beneficial to our residents. Approving these articles would allow the participation of more residents in Town business.

Article 1 has to do with the time and date of the annual town meeting. The Selectboard proposes changing it from the first Tuesday in March at 10:00 am to the Monday night at 6:30 pm just before that first Tuesday. People who work during the day would now be able to attend and participate. In our five-town area, we are currently the only town that holds its annual town meeting during the day.

Article 2 proposes electing the town officers by Australian ballot instead of voting from the floor at Town meeting. Currently a very small number of residents actually elect our town officers. At the 2018 Panton Town Meeting, 24 residents attended. We have 492 registered voters in Panton. Residents who are not in Panton for Town Meeting Day would now be eligible to participate by absentee ballot or early voting.

Article 3 proposes adopting the Panton Town budget and any budget articles by Australian ballot instead of by voting from the floor at Town Meeting. This is a fairer way to involve more voters in these financial decisions. In March, 99 residents voted by Australian ballot for the Town's charitable contributions to organizations. We believe more residents should be given a voice.

We will provide more information at the Special Town Meeting and hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

The Panton Select Board

Howard Hall

Teresa Smith

Zachary Weaver