



## TOWN OF DOVER, MA

### **THE CITIZEN'S PETITION PROCESS FOR PLACING AN ARTICLE ON THE 2024 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT**

The 2024 Annual Town Meeting will be held on Monday, May 6, 2024. The Town Meeting Warrant opened on Thursday, November 30, 2023 and will close on Friday, January 12, 2024. A Citizen's Petition must be delivered to the Board of Selectmen's office by 11 AM on January 12, 2024.

The following is a general guideline for citizens wishing to place an Article on the Town Meeting Warrant for consideration by Town Meeting voters.

The petitioner(s) should prepare a draft statement explaining the purpose and intent of the Warrant Article, what it aims to accomplish, and why it is needed. It is recommended that the petitioner(s) contact the Selectmen's Office for advice on required actions and on structuring the Article and for assistance with the appropriate wording and formatting of the Article.

Once the Article is finalized, the petitioner(s) will be provided with a Petition sheet that includes the written Article at the top with spaces below for solicited signatures. Ten "wet ink" signatures are required for an Article to be placed on the Warrant, and those signing must be registered Dover voters. It is strongly encouraged that more than ten signatures be obtained as some may not be able to be certified due to illegible signatures or signers may not be qualified as registered voters. After submission of the Petition by the due date of January 12, 2024 to the Selectmen's Office, the Town Clerk will verify all signatures.

Prior to Town Meeting, petitioner(s) will be contacted to present their Articles to the Board of Selectmen either at a Selectmen's Meeting or at the Warrant Committee's Open Hearing which will be held the evening of Monday, March 18, 2024. At the public Open Hearing, the Warrant Committee will present the Warrant Articles and provide an opportunity for discussion.

It is recommended that petitioner(s) attend the Moderator's Meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2024 and Town Meeting on Monday, May 6, 2024 and be prepared to respond to comments/questions about their Warrant Article(s). Dover's Town Moderator will contact the petitioner(s) in advance to discuss their roles/presentations, if any, at Town Meeting.