

WARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
NOTICE OF MEETING TO CONSIDER  
REDUCING QUORUM FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

MAY 23, 2022

***The Board of Selectmen hereby provides notice of its intention to considering an adjustment of the quorum requirements for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting.*** House Bill 4777, signed by the Governor on June 5, 2020, and enacted as Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2020, and extended pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, authorizes a Board of Selectmen to reduce the quorum for an Annual or Special Town Meeting, regardless of whether such quorum is set by bylaw or charter. In Ware, Article 2, Section 5(c) of the Town Charter establishes a quorum of 100 registered voters for the Annual Town Meeting.

As background, based upon the orders and guidance issued by the Governor and the Commonwealth's Department of Public Health, among others, with respect to large gatherings in the community as a result of COVID-19 and subsequent variants, the Town is seeking a reduction of the quorum for Town Meeting. The goal, of course, is to ensure that all who wish to participate are able, particularly vulnerable members of our community. Significant planning has been undertaken, and is ongoing, with respect to holding the continuation of Town Meeting on May 23, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in light of the Town's lack of quorum for its originally scheduled date of May 9, 2022.

One of the most essential jobs of the Town Meeting is to set the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Working with the Town Administrator, Police Chief, Moderator, Town Clerk, Health Agent and other key staff, the Town has prepared a Town Meeting plan consistent with the advice and guidance of the Department of Public Health. There may nevertheless be voters who remain worried about participating or who may choose to continue to stay at home at this time in light of current COVID-19 public health metrics. For that reason, the Board of Selectmen will meet on May 23, 2022 to discuss whether to reduce the quorum as a way to ensure that the Town Meeting can accomplish the important business of appropriating a budget and taking other critical actions.

Therefore, to preserve the option for Town Meeting to be held with a lower quorum, ***the Board hereby provides notice of its intent to meet at the Ware High School auditorium on May 23, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., to discuss whether, with the Moderator's input and approval, it should lower the quorum to ensure that Town Meeting can efficiently and effectively undertake its responsibilities.***

The Board of Selectmen looks forward to seeing you at Town Meeting.

If there are questions in the meantime, please contact Town Manager Stuart Beckley at 413.967.9648 x 100.

