

**ARTICLE 21: AUTHORIZE TOWN CLERK TO EDIT BY-LAW PARAGRAPH NUMBERING**

*Proposed by: Board of Selectmen*

To determine whether the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Wayland by adding the following new section to Article I thereof and by renumbering §1-1 (General penalty) as §2-1 and §1-2 (Noncriminal disposition of violations; enforcement) as §2-2:

§1-1. Editing.

The Town Clerk, after consultation with Town Counsel, may make nonsubstantive editorial revisions to the Town Code to insure consistent and appropriate sequencing of numbering of sections, subsections, paragraphs and subparagraphs, provided that all such editorial revisions shall be referenced by a footnote which describes the revision and the reason therefore.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE COMMENTS:** Minor edits of this type to the Town Code occur occasionally and are administrative in nature. They do not affect the substance and intent of the code.

**ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR:** It is unnecessary for such matters to require the attention of citizens at Town Meeting.

**ARGUMENTS OPPOSED:** Some citizens may wish to see and vote on any and all edits to the code at Town Meeting, regardless of how minor.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Finance Committee recommends approval. Vote: 5-0.

**QUANTUM OF VOTE:** Majority – see Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 21.

**CONSISTENCY WITH LAW:** It is the opinion of Town Counsel that the foregoing by-law amendment is consistent with federal and Massachusetts law.

*For more information about this article, contact Fred Turkington, Town Administrator, at (508) 358-3620, or email [fturkington@wayland.ma.us](mailto:fturkington@wayland.ma.us).*

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**ARTICLE 22: CHANGE DATE THAT ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS TAKE OFFICE**

*Proposed by: Board of Selectmen*

To determine whether the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to adopt a special act establishing the date that Town officials elected at the annual town election take office as the date of adjournment of the annual town meeting immediately following said election.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE COMMENTS:** Wayland traditionally holds its town elections on a Tuesday before Town Meeting convenes and successful candidates assume office immediately. This means that board members may be new to their positions for annual town meeting.

Passage of this article instructs the Board of Selectmen to petition the legislature to set the date of elected officials taking office as the conclusion of annual town meeting. This will result in a smooth transition for newly elected or appointed members to begin their service to the town in an orderly time frame. This allows existing members to finish their work for Town Meeting with an unhurried and orderly transition for incoming members.

**ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR:** This will provide a smooth, orderly transition for Board and/or Commission members to begin their service to the town.

**ARGUMENTS OPPOSED:** The Finance Committee is not aware of any.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Finance Committee recommends approval. Vote 6-0.

**QUANTUM OF VOTE:** Majority – see Massachusetts Constitution Amendment Article 2, Section 8(1).

*For more information about this article, contact Fred Turkington, Town Administrator, at (508) 358-3620, or email fturkington@wayland.ma.us.*

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## **ARTICLE 23: CHANGE THE RANGE OF DATES FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

*Proposed by: Board of Selectmen*

To determine whether the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Wayland, Chapter 36, by striking from the first sentence of §36-1 thereof the words “in April” and inserting in place thereof the words “between April 1 and May 15 inclusive”.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE COMMENTS:** This change will expand by 15 days the time period during which the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) can begin. In those years when all of the following occur during April, Good Friday/Easter, Passover, Patriot’s Day, and school spring recess, the ability to schedule ATM can be problematic. It is important to the Town that when sensitive topics like Proposition 2 ½ overrides and the High School building project are up for discussion and vote at ATM, there be sufficient time to prepare and have a fulsome discussion. Allowing for a later ATM date also gives more time for the Town to react to changing financial conditions while preparing its annual budget.

This article should also be thought of in the context of Article # 24, Change Deadline for the Submission of Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles. Moving both deadlines back should minimize the need to conduct a Special Town Meeting within the ATM to deal with issues that missed the earlier December 15 cutoff date.

**ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR:** Additional flexibility in scheduling ATM will allow the Town to schedule ATM at a time when there is the greatest possibility of having the most participation and allows more time to prepare for the meeting. Thorough preparation and maximum participation are critical to making ATM successful.

**ARGUMENTS OPPOSED:** Some would say that allowing extra time doesn’t necessarily mean that a better result will occur and that the process already takes too long as it is.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Finance Committee recommends approval. Vote: 6-0.