

TOWN OF WHEELOCK
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NOTICE REGARDING TOWN MEETING 2021

Act 162 of the Vermont Legislature is a temporary law which allows municipalities that normally vote from the floor on Town Meeting Day to instead use the Australian ballot method of voting by vote of the Selectboard.

Pursuant to said Act 162, the Wheelock Selectboard voted at their December 21, 2020 regular meeting, to switch to the Australian ballot method of voting for all articles, including the budgets, for **2021 Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 2, 2021. Polls will be open from 10 AM – 7PM at the Wheelock Town Hall.**

REMOTE INFORMATIONAL MEETING

The Australian ballot voting method requires a public informational hearing within 10 days preceding Town Meeting. The purpose of the informational hearing is to afford the electorate an opportunity to discuss the article(s) on which they will be voting. The hearing serves as the debate component that would otherwise accompany voting when conducted from the floor. 17 V.S.A. § 2680(g). Informational hearings may be conducted by electronic means under the existing provisions of Vermont's Open Meeting Law as modified by the temporary COVID-19 measures of Act 92. 17 V.S.A. § 2680(g)(1).

The Wheelock Selectboard will hold a **Remote Informational Meeting on February 22, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. via Zoom.** Options to participate include via video conferencing or by phone. Login/Dial In credentials will be available at a later date and can be found: (i) in the Annual Report that will be available in mid February, 2021, (ii) in the Notice of Remote Informational Meeting posted in the designated posting areas in Town, (iii) on the Town website: www.townofwheelockvt.org, or (iv) can be emailed by the Town Clerk by request at wheelocktown@gmail.com.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

The recent passage of Act 162 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, eliminates the requirement for candidates to collect voter signatures in order to get their names on the ballot for any local election held at a special or annual town meeting in 2021. Instead, a candidate just needs to make a request to be placed on the ballot to the town clerk. Note that Act 162 did not waive the consent form requirement. **Therefore, any candidate wishing to add their name to the ballot must complete the consent form and submit it to the town clerk no later than 5:00 P.M. on Monday, January 25, 2021.** The consent form can be found here: local-candidate-consent-pdf.pdf (vermont.gov)

Additionally, the last day for a candidate to withdraw as a candidate for an elected office at Town Meeting is Wednesday, January 27, 2021.

Questions: Please call Vanessa Seguin, Town Clerk, during normal office hours. 802-626-9094