

# Town Meeting

## [2023-24 COVID-19 Town Meeting Information](#)

In response to the ongoing health concerns posed by COVID-19, the Governor signed [Act 1 \(H.42\) of 2023](#) on January 25, 2023. The law does the following:

Allows municipalities to postpone their 2023 and/or 2024 annual meeting to a later (and potentially safer) date. It is up to the municipality to decide the later date.

Allows municipalities to apply the Australian ballot system to its annual town meeting held in the year 2023 and/or 2024 by vote of its legislative body. Allows municipalities to conduct the informational hearings (required when using Australian ballot) by electronic means without appointing a physical location. Clarifies that municipal officers will serve until the annual meeting and when successors are chosen if a legislative body chooses to move the date of either the 2023 and/or 2024 annual meeting.

When municipalities hold informational hearings in conjunction with this law, they must:

- Use technology that allows the public to attend by electronic or other means.
- Allow the public to access the meeting by telephone.
- Include and post information on how the public can access the meeting electronically in its agenda.
- Record the hearings.

The decision to switch to Australian ballot voting is optional.

Note also that, if the legislative body votes to use Australian ballot, an informational hearing will be required pursuant to [17 V.S.A. § 2680\(h\)](#) in order to provide an opportunity for public discussion of the ballot items. [Act 1 \(H. 42\)](#) of 2023 allows for entirely remote informational hearings. We have developed an Australian Ballot Info Sheet for those new to this form of voting, as well as a Remote Public Informational Hearing Toolkit which can be found in the Resources below.

## VLCT Town Meeting Resources

Vermont town meeting is direct democracy practiced in its purest form. It is the key to town government, as voters determine the town business for the coming year.

VLCT's Municipal Assistance Center (MAC) has current online resources on a variety of town meeting topics for your Town Meeting Day preparation needs. **Please refer to our town meeting resources at the bottom of this page.** In addition, our downloadable [Municipal Calendar](#) includes additional town meeting related dates. Each town office receives an updated print poster annually, in July.

<b>2024 Town Meeting Deadlines</b>	<b>Date</b>
First day to post warnings and notices	Thursday, January 25, 2024
Last day to post warnings and notices	Sunday February 4, 2024
Last day to distribute Annual Auditor's Report*	Saturday, February 24, 2024
<b>Town Meeting Day</b>	<b>Tuesday, March 5, 2024</b>

*\*unless the town has voted to give notice of the report's availability*

Note: If the legislative body chooses to postpone the meeting date per H.42, all relevant dates should be changed to correspond with the day on which the municipality holds its town meeting.

## **VLCT Resources Are Grouped into the Following Categories: (scroll down)**

- General Resources
- Australian Ballot Voting
- 2024 COVID-19 Town Meeting Resources
- Special Town Meetings

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## **General Elections Information and Resources for the Public**

If you are looking for general information on elections, election results, or running for local office, please call 802-828-2363 or visit the [Vermont Secretary of State's Office, Elections](#)

[Division's website](#). The Elections Division also maintains an [elections calendar](#).

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**Disclaimer:** This resource is only intended to provide information and it does **NOT** constitute legal advice. Readers with specific legal questions are encouraged to contact an attorney. The use or downloading of this resource does **NOT** create an attorney-client relationship and will not be treated in a confidential manner.

If you have additional questions please use the ask a question button to submit them.

Ask a Question

## General

## Australian Ballot Voting

## Hybrid & Remote Meetings

## Special Town Meetings