

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTING

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS OVERVIEW (2025 TOWN MEETING)

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BASICS

BALLOTS

PUBLIC INFO. HEARING

PRESIDING OFFICER

POLLING PLACES

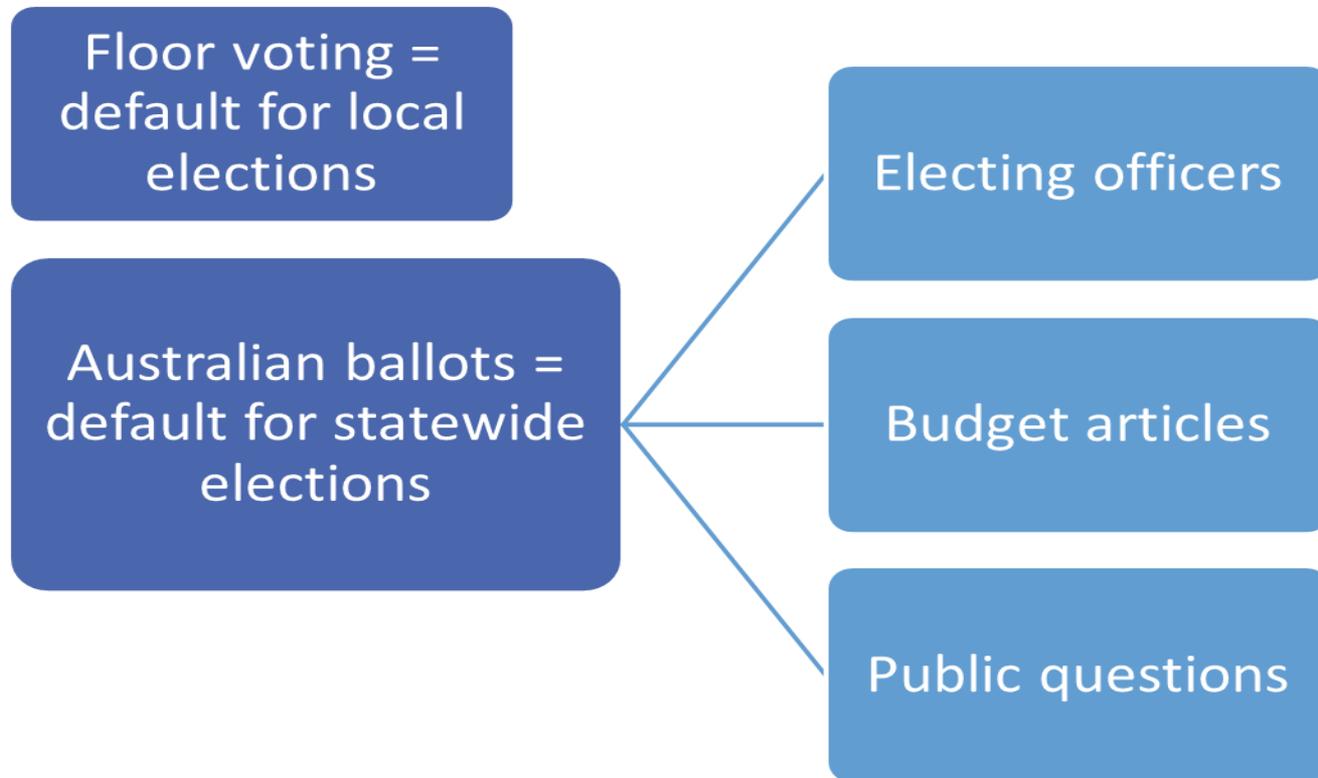
STATUTORY DEADLINES

RESOURCES

AGENDA

BASICS

WHAT IS IT?



BASICS

SWITCHING TO THIS METHOD



Why?

Promote public safety;
Increase voter turnout;
Allow secretive versus public voting.



How?

Town vote.

BASICS

SWITCHING TO THIS METHOD

Budgets:

- A vote on whether to use the Australian ballot system to establish the budget shall be in substantially the following form:
 - “Shall (name of municipality) adopt its (name of individual budget article) or (all budget articles) by Australian ballot?”

Public Questions:

- A vote on whether to use the Australian ballot on public questions other than the budget shall be in substantially the following form:
 - “Shall (name of municipality) vote on (specify the public question) by Australian ballot?”
 - or
 - “Shall (name of municipality) vote on all public questions by Australian ballot?”

BASICS

WHAT DOES IT REQUIRE?

Voter-Backed Petitions

Articles

Warnings



Title 17, Chapter 55, Subchapter 3: Local Elections Using the Australian Ballot System

MAC Australian Ballot Info. Sheet

BASICS

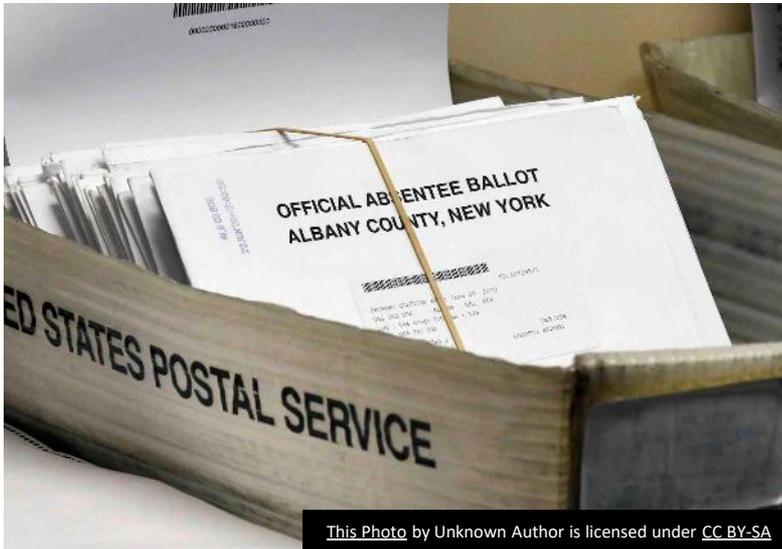
WHAT DOES IT REQUIRE?



- Made available at least 20 days before local election – February 12th, 2025.
- Early and absentee voting allowed:
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/17/051>
- Selectboard can vote to mail ballots without request.

BALLOTS TIMING

BALLOTS TIMING



- Candidate nominating petitions and consent forms:
 - Deadline: January 27th 2025.
 - [SOS Model Candidate Consent Form](#)

BALLOT CONTENTS

- Produce yourselves if hand count; use vendor to produce if tabulators.
- Text must be black.
- Yes or no question format.
- Model Town Meeting Articles.



BALLOT CONTENTS

- [Voter-Backed
Petitions FAQs.](#)
- [Model Social Service
Appropriation Policy.](#)

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING

- Held within ~~10~~ 30 days preceding Town Meeting.



PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING NOTICE

- Warned at least 10 days in advance.
- Posting in at least two public places within municipality and in town clerk's office.
- [Model Australian Ballot Informational Hearing Notice.](#)
- [Hybrid Public Meetings Toolkit.](#)



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PRESIDING OFFICERS

- Floor Voting:
 - Moderator
- Australian ballot:
 - Town Clerk



POLLING PLACES - HOURS



- Open anytime between 5am and 10am.
- Must remain open until 7pm.
- Conducted like statewide elections.

POLLING PLACES - CAMPAIGNING



- The presiding officer must ensure:
 - Outside the building:
 - ON the walks and driveways leading to the polling place, no person may physically interfere with the progress of the voters.
 - Within the building:
 - No campaign or political materials that display the name of the candidate or political party can be displayed, handed out, or allowed to remain.
 - No person may distribute election materials or solicit voters regarding an item or candidate on the ballot.
- The presiding officer controls the placement of signs on the property of the polling place during polling hours.

[Election Procedures – A Guide for Election Officials](#)

Refer questions to:

[Secretary of State Elections Division.](#)

STATUTORY DEADLINES

August							Sep			
a	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu
i					1	2	3	1	2	3
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10
0	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17
7	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	

November							Dec			
a	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu
i						1	2	1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17
6	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31

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- [2024/2025 VLCT Municipal Calendar.](#)
- [Secretary of State Elections Division calendar.](#)

STATUTORY DEADLINES

Voter-backed petitions due	Thursday, Jan. 16 th
First day to post warnings & notice	Thursday, Jan. 23 rd
Candidate consent forms due by 5pm	Monday, Jan. 27 th
Last day to post warnings & notices	Sunday, Feb. 2 nd
Ballots prepared and available	Wednesday, Feb. 12 th
Post warning for info. hearing	Wed., Jan. 23 rd - Feb. 22 nd
First day to hold info. hearing	Sat. Feb. 2 nd
TOWN MEETING DAY 2025	Tuesday, March 4th

VLCT MAC RESOURCES

[TOWN MEETING HOMEPAGE:](#)

[2024/2025 Municipal Calendar](#)

[Quick Guide to Vermont Town Meeting](#)

[Model Town Meeting Warnings](#)

[Model Town Meeting Articles](#)

[Voter-Backed Petitions FAQs](#)

VLCT MAC RESOURCES

TOWN MEETING HOMEPAGE:

[Australian Ballot Info. Sheet](#)

[Australian Ballot Checklist](#)

[Model Australian Ballot Info. Hearing Notice](#)

[Hybrid Public Meeting Toolkit](#)

OTHER RESOURCES

VT Secretary of State Elections Division:

[Election Procedures – A Guide for Election Officials](#)

[Election Supplies](#)

[Polling Place and Sign Rules](#)

[Elections Division Calendar](#)

Vermont Statutes Online:

[Title 17, Chapter 55, Subchapter 3](#)

[Local Elections Using Australian Ballot](#)



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MAC MEMBER INQUIRY SERVICE

- “SUBMIT A LEGAL INQUIRY” OR “ASK A QUESTION” TABS ON WEBSITE
- [SEND US A MESSAGE](#)