



ARTICLE 27: Town Meeting Remote Participation

ARTICLE 27. Remote Participation at Town Meetings

Mr. McKennitt moves:

That the Town take affirmative action on
Article 27 as printed in the Warrant.

ARTICLE 27: Town Meeting
Remote Participation

Authorize the **Select Board**
to **petition** the State Legislature
for special legislation to allow Concord
to permit voters to **participate and vote remotely**
for Open Town Meeting

Background

- **Town Meeting Study Committee:** recommend ways to make TM **more inclusive**.
- TMSC also charged to consider **Remote Participation & Voting Citizen Petition (TM24)**
- TMSC created and publicized a survey, to which **more than 1000 voters** responded.

Lower a barrier to TM

Majority of survey respondents **want to participate** and find it **difficult to attend in person**.

Nearly 80% favored “being able to deliberate and vote **remotely** on issues during Town Meeting.”

However, State Law

State law requires in-person attendance to vote at Open Town Meetings.

Concord can seek an exemption from this state law by filing a Home Rule Petition with the state legislature.

Three Voting Steps

1. An affirmative **TM vote** authorizing Select Board action.
2. A **Select Board vote** to file a Home Rule Petition with the State Legislature.
3. The **State Legislature vote** approving the measure.

It's a *start*

- **When?** The speed of legislative action is a major unknown.
- **How, exactly?** Secure, authenticated, easy to use, easy to moderate, to manage ... what's the right tech?
- **Hybrid is different:** participation, attention, community

TMSC recommends

We are seeking for Concord
the right to try a promising change
for a **more inclusive** TM.



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