

NOTICE ABOUT THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 28, 2021

On December 14, 2020, a citizens' petition was filed with the Middleton Town Clerk. Massachusetts General Law, chapter 39, section 10, requires that the Board of Selectmen call a Special Town Meeting when a citizens' petition is accompanied by signatures of at least 200 voters registered to vote in the town. The December 14, 2020 petition contained more than 200 signatures of voters registered to vote in Middleton. Therefore, the Board of Selectmen was compelled to call a Special Town Meeting to be held within 45 days of December 14, 2020.

On January 12, 2021, the Board of Selectmen called a Special Town Meeting to be held on January 28, 2021, within the 45 days required by law.

Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic there are significant challenges to convening a town meeting. The quorum to take action at a town meeting in Middleton is 100. Due to COVID, there is not a readily available venue that can accommodate in excess of 100 people. An outdoor town meeting was considered. An outdoor town meeting in January was deemed to be not ideal.

Under special emergency legislation passed on April 3, 2020 (chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020), the Town Moderator may continue a town meeting in the interest of public health. Such continuance may be for up to 30 days and more than one continuance may be issued. The Moderator may make this decision after consulting with public health and public safety officials and the Board of Selectmen.

On January 14, 2021, the Moderator issued a declaration recessing and continuing the Special Town Meeting to February 25, 2021. Additional continuances will be declared if the public health emergency brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic has not abated.

Please consult the January 28, 2021 Town Meeting page for updates. The page can be accessed at <https://middletonma.gov/504/Town-Meeting>.