



TOWN OF BALDWIN, MAINE
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN
534 PEQUAWKET TRAIL, WEST BALDWIN, ME 04091



Warrant Articles Policy

Background: The Baldwin Board of Selectmen has the authority to propose warrant articles for the town meeting and special town meetings. The Selectmen may also, at their discretion, include articles suggested by town residents. In addition, citizens may petition the Board of Selectmen to include an article in the warrant for the town meeting or for a special town meeting. In accordance with MSRA Title 30-A Section 2522, "On the written petition of a number of voters equal to at least 10% of the number of votes cast in the town at the last gubernatorial election, but in no case less than 10, the municipal officers shall either insert a particular article in the next warrant issued or shall within 60 days call a special town meeting for its consideration."

Who May Circulate a Petition: Any registered voter of the state may circulate a petition for a local initiative. Section 2504 of Title 30-A provides that "A petition related to any local initiative ... may be circulated as provided in Title 21-A, Section 903-A." Section 903-A states that "a petition may be circulated by any registered voter." Thus, it appears that, although a petition circulator must be a registered voter, the voter need not be registered to vote in the particular municipality in which the petition is circulated. However, only the signatures of voters registered to vote in the municipality in which the petition arises will count towards any applicable statutory requirement that a certain number or percent of signatures be obtained.

In the past, it has been an unwritten Baldwin policy that a petition with the signatures of 25 Baldwin registered Baldwin voters would be sufficient for the Selectmen to include a petition article in a warrant. In order to be compliant with MRSA Title 30-A Section 2522 this policy is revised and hereby documented to be as follows:

Policy :

1. "On the written petition of 25 registered Baldwin voters, or a number of registered Baldwin voters equal to at least 10% of the number of votes cast in the town at the last gubernatorial election, but in no case less than 10, the municipal officers shall either insert a particular article in the next warrant issued or shall within 60 days call a special town meeting for its consideration."
2. "Baldwin based humanitarian, public support, or philanthropic organizations do not need a petition to request an article for town funding be included in the annual town meeting warrant. A typed letter dated and signed by the local director or president of the organization presented to the town clerk no later than 6 weeks before the town meeting will be sufficient.
3. "Requests for Baldwin funding to be approved at the annual town meeting from non-Baldwin based humanitarian, public support, or philanthropic organizations must have at least 25 signatures of Baldwin registered voters on a petition provided to the town clerk no later than 6 weeks before the town meeting.



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4. "The Baldwin Planning Board may present the Board of Selectmen an article to adopt or amend a land use ordinance for the next warrant provided a public hearing has been held no later than 10 days prior to the town meeting at which the article will be considered. A petition of registered Baldwin voters is not required for such an article."

If the Board of Selectmen believe that petition circulators would not have a problem obtaining the number of signatures of registered Baldwin voters as required in the above policy statement for a proposed warrant article, the Board of Selectmen may at their discretion, include the proposed petition warrant article in the warrant at the next town meeting or call a special town meeting for its consideration, without requiring circulation of a petition.

Sincerely,
Baldwin Selectmen



Olin Thomas - Selectman



Robert Flint - Selectman



Jeffrey Sanborn - Selectmen

6 Jan 2017

Policy Adoption Date