

Local League Positions - Andover/North Andover

Underline: Andover only *Italics: North Andover only*

Proposed Changes

The League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover supports:

Town Government

I. Government

- A. *Form of Government: - Selectman-Town Manager.*
- B. An amendment to the Town Charter, for recall of elected officials, is allowed if :
 - 1. The amendment is written so as to prevent its capricious use
and
 - 2. The amendment can be added without electing a charter commission.
- C. *A Town Charter with a written definition of duties and responsibilities is required for town officials and major town boards.*
- D. *Coordination of related town boards is encouraged wherever possible.*
- E. *A Charter should define which town officials should be elective, which should be policy-making, and which should be filled by hired, professional, specialists.*

II. Town Meeting

- A. *Form of Town Meeting: Open Town Meeting.*
- B. *Publicizing the procedure for citizens to include items on the warrant.*
- C. *In advance of the Town Meeting, the annual Finance Committee Report should include the moderators' rules and procedures, excluding those rules and procedures that are already published in Robert's Rules. The rules and procedures should also be published in other available media sources.*
- D. *Recommendations of appropriate boards should be included in the Finance Committee report/warrant, as required by law. (See Article III, Section 3(a) of Andover Town Bylaws)*
- E. *Moderators should give a brief explanation of traditions and procedures of Town Meeting at the start of each meeting.*
- F. *Reasonable hours for opening and adjourning Town Meeting should be set by the moderator, as well as specific designated times after which no new business may be introduced, unless a majority of those present vote to do so.*
- G. *The town will finance the broadcast of Town Meeting and the archiving of the videotapes.*
- H. *No quorum is required for Town Meeting.*
- I. *Consent agendas are permitted.*
- J. *Prior to Town Meeting, efforts to improve public education about warrant articles should be publicized through town media, civic organizations and private media, and should ensure distribution of the warrant to every household.*
- K. *Provide the use of pro and con microphones, at moderator's discretion, when appropriate.*
- L. *Strict enforcement of time limits for speakers, presenters, and communicators.*
- M. *Disclosure by speakers of any vested interest, or the absence of any vested interest, when speaking to an article, as required by town bylaw. (See Article II, Section 8 of Andover Town Bylaws)*
- N. *Advocate for the expanded use of technology to make Town Meeting more efficient and more user friendly.*
- O. *The Board of Selectmen should strive to schedule Town Meeting in locations, and on dates, which do not conflict with other concurrent events and town commitments, in an effort to avoid problems with traffic congestion, parking, etc., and to promote attendance.*