

# ARTICLE 7: TOWN ELECTIONS

## SECTION 1: TOWN ELECTIONS: GENERAL; PRELIMINARY

The regular general town election shall be held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November in each year.

On the fifth Tuesday preceding every regular general town election there shall be a preliminary election for the purpose of nominating candidates.

The order in which names of candidates appear on the ballot for each office shall be determined by a drawing, by lot, conducted by the Town Clerk, which shall be open to the public.

## SECTION 2: NON-PARTISAN ELECTIONS

All elections for town offices shall be non-partisan and election ballots shall be printed without any party mark, emblem, or other designation whatsoever.

## SECTION 3: PRELIMINARY ELECTION

(a) Signature Requirements - The number of signatures of voters required to place the name of a candidate on the official ballot to be used at a preliminary election shall be as follows: for the office of Town Councilor and member of the School Committee, a minimum of 50 such signatures. (OTHER ELECTED OFFICES?)

(b) Determination of Candidates – If only 1 person is to be elected to an office, the 2 persons receiving at a preliminary election the highest number of votes for nomination for any office shall be the sole candidates for that office whose names shall be printed on the official ballots to be used at the regular general town election at which such office is to be voted upon, and no acceptance of a nomination shall be necessary to its validity. If 2 or more persons are to be elected to the same office at such regular election, the several persons, in number equal to twice the number so to be elected, receiving at such preliminary election the highest number of votes for nomination for that office shall be the sole candidates for that office whose names shall be printed on the official ballots. If the preliminary election results in a tie vote among candidates for nomination receiving the lowest number of votes which, but for said tie vote, would entitle a person receiving the same to have his or her name printed on the official ballots for the election, all candidates participating in said tie vote shall have their names printed on the official ballots, although in consequence thereof there shall be printed on such ballots the names of candidates exceeding twice the number to be elected.

(c) Condition Making Preliminary Unnecessary - If at the expiration of time for filing statements of candidates to be voted upon at any preliminary election not more than twice as many such statements have been filed with the board of registrars for an office as candidates are to be elected to such office, the candidates whose statements have been filed with the board of registrars shall be deemed to have been nominated to such office, and their names shall be voted upon for such office at the succeeding general election, and the board of registrars shall not print their names on the ballots to be used at said preliminary election and no other nomination to such office shall be made. If in consequence it shall appear that no names are to be printed upon the official ballots, no preliminary election shall be held.

#### SECTION 4: APPLICATION OF GENERAL LAWS

Except as provided in this charter, all town elections shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth relating to the right to vote, the registration of voters, the nomination of candidates, the conduct of preliminary, general and special elections, the submission of charters, charter amendments and other propositions to the voters, the counting of votes, the recounting of votes, and the determination of results.

\*Publicity for Candidates