

Lisa Paige

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Vote to discard town meeting

I have been a resident of Andover since 2004. Over the years, I have attended many town meetings. I feel the town meeting system of government, which typically lasts late into the evening for multiple nights, makes it difficult to get input from every resident. There have been numerous times over the years where family commitments and/or employment commitments have forced me and/or my husband to choose between exercising our right to have input in town issues and family/employment commitments. There are traditionally no other options for providing input if you cannot make the allotted town meeting. Therefore, town voting often represents only a small portion of the town population or it represents a special interest group who show up solely to vote for one particular issue without staying for the entire meeting. Town meetings that can be accessed remotely with input may be useful but that does not seem to be an option. Therefore, I think that discarding town meeting in favor of an election process would allow a greater portion of the town's population to participate.