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We've outgrown Town Meetings

I'm a 32 year resident of Andover, and was enamored with Town Meeting the first years I attended. It was fun and engaging to participate in Town decisions in that open forum format practiced originally by the Greeks, and then brought to these shores by the Pilgrims.

Unfortunately, I've realized that Andover's Town issues have outgrown the capacity of our Town Meetings and it's citizenry to manage in a diligent way. Several years ago we spent more time debating the merits of dog laws than we did the components of a \$100+ million budget. Vocal citizen groups swamp the Town Meetings for their special causes then leave the Town Meeting to a small minority of residents to make most of the other decisions.

Time for Andover to advance to a representative form of government where our elected representatives can decide more intelligently on the major issues we face than expect a small minority of our residents to grasp these matters with the usual cursory review of the warrant book at the meeting.

After watching the presentation, I would support a Council-Manager form of government. I'm reluctant to support a modified Town Meeting form of government even if it includes more at-home resident participation through some form of remote viewing and voting. We're just too big for everyone to have their say.

Thank you for your hard work on this very important issue. We've had Town Meeting for almost 375 years - we've outgrown it.