

## INFORMATION ON SUBMITTING A CITIZEN PETITION

New Hampshire RSA 39:3 requires that petition articles must have at least **25 signatures of registered voters in the Town of Salem** in order to be included on the warrant. *The RSA also states that the Selectmen shall insert the petitioned article with only such minor textual changes as may be required.* All names will be reviewed by the Town Clerk to verify that signers are registered voters. Deadline for petition articles is **close of business (5:00 p.m.) Tuesday, January 14, 2020.** (*January 10<sup>th</sup> for warrant articles requiring a bond.*)

The Board of Selectmen will hold a meeting in January (**Thursday, January 16, 2020**) regarding petition articles.

The Budget Committee will hold a meeting in January 15, 2020 (**Preliminary Votes**) and January 21, 2020 (**Public Hearing & Final Votes**) to consider petition articles. Petitioner(s) is requested to attend those meetings, as well as the **Annual Town Meeting Deliberative Session** scheduled for Saturday, **February 1, 2020** to support the petition article. (**Note: Budget Committee only votes on warrant articles requiring an appropriation.**)

Petition articles must be submitted to the Board of Selectmen/Town Manager's Office prior to the deadline to be considered for the Annual Town Meeting.

**PLEASE NOTE IF THE PETITION ARTICLE INCLUDES A COST FOR THE PROJECT/ITEM, THAT AMOUNT MUST BE INCLUDED AS PART OF THE LANGUAGE OF THE PETITION PRIOR TO GATHERING SIGNATURES.**

### Dates to remember:

- **January 14, 2020** (Tuesday) – Deadline to Submit Citizen Petition to Board of Selectmen (Petition must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. at the Town Manager's Office, Salem Town Hall) (*January 10<sup>th</sup> for warrant articles requiring a bond.*)
- **January 15, 2020** (Wednesday) - Budget Committee Meeting, Preliminary Votes (Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at Salem Town Hall) - **FOR CITIZEN PETITIONS REQUESTING AN APPROPRIATION ONLY**
- **January 16, 2020** (Thursday) – Board of Selectmen Meeting, Citizen Petition Review/Votes (Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at Salem Town Hall)
- **January 21, 2020** (Tuesday) - Budget Committee Meeting, Public Hearing/Final Votes (Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at Salem Town Hall) - **FOR CITIZEN PETITIONS REQUESTING AN APPROPRIATION ONLY**
- **February 1, 2020** (Saturday) - Deliberative Session (Meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. at the Salem High School Auditorium)
- **March 10, 2020** (Tuesday) – Ballot Voting for Registered Voters

Please note that at least one individual should attend the meetings of January 15<sup>th</sup>, 16, & 21<sup>st</sup> as well as the February 1<sup>st</sup> deliberative session to speak on behalf of the petition.

Please direct any questions to Maureen Witley in the Town Manager's Office at 603-890-2120 or by e-mail [mwitley@salemnh.gov](mailto:mwitley@salemnh.gov).