

**ARTICLE \_\_\_\_ ELECTRONIC VOTING AT TOWN MEETING**  
(Majority vote)

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter A of the General Bylaws by adding Section A7 as follows:

**A7. Method of Voting; Determination by Moderator**

- a. Unless otherwise required by law, bylaw, regional agreement, or similar binding obligation, law, the Moderator shall determine the method of voting on each article at town meeting, which method may vary from article to article, and which method may include a voice vote, a vote by show of hands ~~or~~ the equivalent, a standing vote, a ballot vote, a vote by electronic technology furnished by the town for the use of town meeting members (where available), or a vote by other means as authorized by the Moderator and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the town meeting members present and voting.
- b. If the vote is unanimous, or if the quantum of the vote required by law is discernible by the Moderator based on the voting method utilized under Section A7(a), the Moderator shall declare the result of the vote and the clerk shall record the result of the vote in the records of the town meeting.
- c. If the Moderator cannot discern the result of the vote based on the voting method utilized under Section A7(a), or if a count is required under Section A5 where a four-fifths or nine-tenths vote of a town meeting is required by statute, or if a vote declared under Section A7(b) of these bylaws is immediately questioned by seven or more voters, the Moderator shall cause the vote to be counted either by tellers or by such electronic technology, whereupon the Moderator shall declare the result of the vote and the clerk shall record the result of the vote in the records of the town meeting.
- d. Pursuant to Article 114 of the Massachusetts Constitution and to the Massachusetts Equal Rights Law, G.L. c. 93, §103, reasonable accommodation shall be made to ensure that equal voting rights of otherwise qualified handicapped individuals present and voting at town meeting are ensured regardless of the method of voting used.

, or take any other action relative thereto.

*[Note: The current General Bylaw Section A5 (Vote counts by Moderator) provides as follows:*

**A5. Vote counts by Moderator**

*If a two-thirds, four-fifths or nine-tenths vote of a town meeting is required by statute, the count shall be taken, and the vote shall be recorded in the records by the clerk; provided, however, if a two-thirds vote of a town meeting is required by statute, the Town has authorized the Moderator not to require a count and the clerk shall record the vote as passed by a two thirds margin; and provided, further, that if the vote is unanimous, a count need not be taken, and the clerk shall record the vote as unanimous. ]*

**MOTION**

Move that the Town adopt the General Bylaw amendments as set forth in the Article.

**SUMMARY**

This proposed amendment codifies the existing procedures for voting at town meetings in Acton and provides for the use of electronic voting in certain circumstances. At town meeting, there will be a mock demonstration of voting by electronic technology to demonstrate both how the technology works and the situations in which it may apply.

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<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b><u>Board of Selectmen</u></b>	<b><u>Finance Committee</u></b>
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