

Making Your Voice Heard

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Hello!



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Learning Objective 1:

Where Do You Get Your
Information

Getting information

- Town Websites
 - Sign up for alerts!
- Reading local newspapers
- Town Meeting Dates
 - Thanks CCYP!

Learning Objective 2:

Public Comment

Standard Expectations for Engagement

- Remember, it's on the record
- Keep it under 3 minutes
- Storytelling is persuasive

Levels of participation

- Public comment
- Appointed position
- Elected position
- Attending meetings

Public Comment

- Who - are you?
- What - are you speaking to?
- Why - is this important?
- What - town documents or plans does this reference back to?
- How - do you wish to see the town take further action?

If you knew how, where would you use your voice?

At Town Meeting

- Public comment is your chance to be heard

At Committee

Learning Objective 3:

Deeper Commitment

Citizens' Petitions

A **citizens' petition** is a proposed article that allows registered voters in Massachusetts towns to propose articles for consideration at a Town Meeting. This process **empowers citizens to bring issues directly before the town's legislative body** for discussion and potential action.

How to do a Citizens' Petitions

1. Draft a regulation (resources are available online for environmental regulations such as Just Zero's toolkit)
2. Meet with boards or committees that has jurisdiction over the subject matter in your petitioned article
3. Get proper formatting by bringing your draft to the Select Board's Office or Town Clerk's Office
4. Obtain the necessary signatures. Spring town meetings normally require less signatures, could be anywhere from 10 to 50 depending on your town. Special town meetings in the fall normally require 100 signatures.
5. Present and explain article at Select Board meeting. The Select Board will review petition articles and may take a position whether or not to support them.
6. Your article will be voted on at town meeting!

Serving on Boards/Committees

In order to be elected or appointed:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Be a registered voter in that town
- Don't have any conflicts of interest

Action Items

1. Sign up for alerts on your town website
2. Attend a public meeting, or watch it at home
3. Provide public comment at a meeting of interest