



TOWN OF GREAT BARRINGTON

Office of the Town Clerk

334 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230

Phone: 413-528-1619 x2100 Fax: 413-528-1026

What is a Citizen Petition Article?

A petition article is a proposal brought to Town Meeting by a citizen or a group of citizens. The petition can be on any topic that is relevant to action by The Town of Great Barrington. In past years there have been petition articles dealing with expenditures, environmental issues and zoning, just to name a few. It is best to try to work with the any appropriate board, committee or departmental staff and be ready to compromise before embarking on a petition article.

Petition Forms

Citizen Petition forms are obtained from the Town Clerk's Office. Every petition must include the full text of the article printed on the petition form on the top of the page. You will obtain the signatures of petitioners together with their residences including house number and street name (**no PO Box's allowed**). You may use more than one sheet depending on the number of signatures needed. We also recommend that petitioners with illegible handwriting also print their name next to their signature. All signatures must be wet ink. No electronic signatures are allowed. The petition must be submitted to the Board of Registrars (Town Clerk's Office) for certification of signatures once all the signatures have been obtained.

It is also your responsibility to make sure the text of the article is legal and properly worded. While not required, it is suggested that you consult an attorney if you have any questions about the legality or wording of the article.

Signatures Needed*

Annual Town Meeting- **10** signatures of Great Barrington registered voters

Special Town Meeting- **100** signatures of Great Barrington registered voters

*It is highly recommended to obtain more signatures than what is required in case a non-resident and/or non-registered voter signs it, the address listed is incorrect or if the handwriting is completely illegible. In these cases, the signature will not count.

Deadlines for Submitting Citizen Petition Articles

Once signatures are obtained, bring the petition form(s) to the Town Clerk's Office no later than 4:00 pm on the deadline date established by the Selectboard for that given meeting. This information can be found on the Town Clerk's section of the town's website (www.townofgb.org).

Presenting the Article at Town Meeting

Petitioners will be expected to attend the Town Meeting to present their article and to have someone attending make a motion on their article. The Moderator will need to be informed ahead of time of the wording of the motion and who will be making the motion. Petitioners are allowed to handout informational flyers on their article before Town Meeting begins however they need to obtain permission of the Moderator in advance.

Calling Meetings

The *Annual Town Meeting* for the transaction of all business in the Warrant shall be held in the beginning of May each year with the specific date set by the Selectboard.

Special Town Meeting may be held at such times as the Selectboard may order or on petition of 200 registered voters.