

Hopkinton Taxpayers,

In March Hopkinton voters will have the opportunity to vote for Senate Bill2 (SB2) for both the school district and the town.

Senate Bill 2, also known as RSA 40:13, is a NH Law that we voters, known as the Legislative Body, can choose for our own local government.

The adoption of RSA 40:13 changes the way the traditional town and/or school district meetings are held and allows for the budget and warrant articles that are normally voted on in one evening to be placed on a ballot for all-day voting in the privacy of the poll booth.

The townspeople still have an opportunity to meet as a body at deliberative sessions for both the town and the school district where the issues that will be voted upon can be discussed and amended. Voting takes place approximately 30 days after these sessions, so voters have time to learn more about the issues and consider their impact.

Often town and school meetings are filled with people who work for the town or school, or have children in the school system, and these voting blocks are not a reflection of the community as a whole.

Also, our older fixed-income voters cannot always stay late for a town or school meeting or attend in bad weather, and many voters go south for the winter and cannot attend meetings in person. With SB2, all voters have a chance to vote by ballot and/or by absentee ballot. We all deserve a chance to vote on how our money will be spent.

Taxpayers attending town and school district meetings often feel intimidated or uninformed. SB2 allows time prior to voting day to learn about the warrant articles being presented. And your votes will be private.

SB2 must be voted in with a 60% margin to become part of our town or school district process, and can be voted out if it is found to be unpopular.

Because it is a fair and efficient method of conducting business, few towns have voted out SB2 after its adoption.

The time has come for Hopkinton taxpayers to consider adopting SB2 for the town and/or the school district.

**Beth Taylor
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