

## SB2 Fact Sheet

**When:** Senate Bill 2 (SB2) the Official Ballot Law was signed into law in 1995. In 1999 SB2 was amended to allow for a 60% majority to pass Bond Articles.

**Why:** To provide the convenience of voting by Ballot or Absentee Ballot for every warrant article. To increase participation in the election process to include all those who cannot attend the meetings. SB2 was designed to address and eliminate the late night maneuvering of a very small amount of people who can, through the reconsideration vote, change a vote and reverse the will of the people. SB2 votes cannot be reconsidered that election year.

**How:** Simply put, SB2 is a modification of the Traditional Town Meeting (TTM) format. It utilizes the identical format as the TTM with the exception of the final vote of the amended or un-amended warrant article. It allows for all warrant articles to be voted on by Ballot or Absentee Ballot during town elections. The warrant articles are debated, and amended (if necessary), at the meeting portion of SB2. This meeting segment occurs anywhere between 31 and 38 days prior to the town elections.

### **What is New in Bow: SB2 Warrant allows us to vote in May and meet in April**

- ✓ The State Legislature has approved SB2 so that it does not require a change in our Town Charter in order to pass. The State Legislature has also made SB2 more appealing and by allowing Towns to switch their Town Election to either April or May.
- ✓ Bow has a strong history of going to the polls by big numbers and voting by ballot. Bow's Meeting Attendance varies significantly, anywhere from less than 3% to 21%. The variation in attendance is primarily attributed to voter interest along with a myriad of other reasons.
- ✓ SB2 does not give any more leverage to small groups of people than Bow's current form of government the TTM. In fact SB2 has a built-in safeguard, the default budget as a voting option, if too much is cut from the budget. Like TTMs, SB2 also has the option of going to a special meeting in order to meet the needs of the town.
- ✓ The 31 to 38 days between the meeting portion of SB2 and the final voting allows the Bow voter to maximize their knowledge of the issues on the ballot. This gives the voter plenty time to verify and ponder information disseminated at the meetings.
- ✓ The warrant on the ballot of a SB2 town does not change so a voter will always know what they are voting for in advance.
- ✓ A sample ballot reviewed days in advance will allow voters vote their ballot in a very short period of time
- ✓ Ballot voting on all warrant gives the widest possible representation from the community
- ✓ Voter friendly Ballot and Absentee Ballot Voting encouraging maximum participation. Ballot voting is much more time efficient. Sample ballots acquired in advance makes the voter even more prepared.
- ✓ Ballot vote permanently documents an accurate consensus of the community's will
- ✓ Ability to debate and amend warrant articles
- ✓ Absentee ballot for all warrant articles