

**ARTICLE 4.**

**SPECIAL ACT – REVISE c. 131 OF THE ACTS OF 1994 TO INCREASE SELECTMEN MEMBERSHIP TO 5**

To see if the Town will vote to petition the Great and General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to revise Part III, Section 5 (a) of Chapter 131 of the Acts of 1994 by substituting the following: "There shall be a Board of Selectmen composed of five members elected for terms of three years each. At the next ensuing election held as part of the Annual Town Meeting after approval of the Special Act, three Selectmen shall be elected, one for two years, and two for three years, and thereafter electing their successors for three years."; said legislation to take effect without further submissions to a Town Meeting; or act on anything relative thereto.

Submitted by Petition.

(Majority vote required)

PETITIONERS' REPORT: Reasons to expand Sudbury's board to five Selectmen include:

1. A board of five members would better reflect the diversity of opinion of Sudbury citizens than a board of three. Each of Lincoln's three selectmen represents about 2,200 residents; if Sudbury had five selectmen, each would still represent over 3,500 residents.
2. Many comparable communities have effective five-member boards of selectmen, including Wayland, Concord, Acton, Maynard, Stow, Carlisle, Boxborough, Northborough, Framingham, Wellesley, Lexington, and Hudson.
3. A board of three can be virtually paralyzed if one member must recuse and the remaining two disagree. A board of five would render this paralysis of government dramatically less likely. Additionally, having even one selectman unavailable effectively limits the times at which a three-member board can schedule meetings.
4. A board of five members permits more open discussion. The dynamics of a three-member board can limit the discussion when there is a divergence of opinion.
5. Any unofficial interaction of two selectmen constitutes a quorum of the three-member board, making it difficult for the board to preserve the appearance of deliberating only in open meeting.
6. Each selectman currently serves as member of at least two committees and as liaison for numerous other bodies, negotiating and communicating for the town. Five members would permit a closer and more focused relationship and better coordination between the 92 committees and departments of the Town and the selectmen.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN POSITION: The Board of Selectmen will report at the Special Town Meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: The Finance Committee will report at the Special Town Meeting.