

Warrant Article Questionnaire

Standard (Recurring) Town Agency Articles

Section III -Questions with Response Boxes- To Be Completed By Petition Sponsor

Article #17	Date Form Completed: 2/9/17
Article Title: Increase Personal Exemptions	
Sponsor Name: Board of Assessors	Email: dangelo@natickma.org

Question	Provide the Article motion exactly as it will appear in the Finance Committee Recommendation Book and presented to Town Meeting for action.			
1	Note: Failing to provide a complete motion will likely require a rescheduling of the hearing at a later date.			
Response	Move that the Town vote to increase the Personal Exemption Amounts by 55.5% under the provisions of Chapter 73 of the Acts of 1986 as amended by Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1988 which provides for "Optional Additional Property Tax Exemptions" allowing an annually determined, uniform increase in the amount of exemption in General Laws, Chapter 59 Section 5 Clauses 17D, 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, 37A, and 41C (elderly person, disabled veteran, or blind person.			
2	At a summary level and very clearly, what is the proposed purpose and objective of this Warrant Article and the accompanying Motion?			
Response	The purpose of this article is to increase the exemption amounts for qualified applicants including seniors on fixed incomes and disabled veterans to keep pace with inflation and increased taxes.			
3	What previous Warrant's has this Article appeared and what has been the actions taken by Finance Committee, other Boards or Committees and Town Meeting?			
Response	Type response here)			
	Warrant Period	Other Committees	FinCom Action	Town Meeting
	FTM 2016			
	SATM 2016		Voted Favorably	Voted Favorably
	FTM 2015			
	SATM 2015		Voted Favorably	Voted Favorably
	Prior		Voted Favorably	Voted Favorably
	Comments: This article has appeared at Town Meeting for 21 years. It has been approved unanimously by the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen as well as at past Town Meetings.			

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4	Why is it required for the Town of Natick and for the Town Agency sponsor(s)?
Response	To alleviate the tax burden of qualified applicants including seniors on fixed income and disabled veterans.
5	Does this article require funding, how much, from what source of funds and under whose authority will the appropriation be managed and spent?
Response	Financial relief granted to qualifying taxpayers is funded from the Assessors Overlay Account. This is under the direction of the Board of Assessors.
6	To the best of your knowledge has any other actions of recent Town Meetings, Massachusetts General Laws or CMR's or other such legislation or actions, created a conflict for this article's purpose and objective?
Response	N/A
7	To the best of your knowledge does a favorable action on the part of this Town Meeting create a conflict or a possible future conflict with the relevant Town Bylaws, financial and capital plans, comprehensive Master Plan, community values, or any relevant state laws and regulations?
Response	N/A
8	Is there anything contemplated in the proposed motion that is different in how it's expected this article will be executed if acted on favorably by Town Meeting?
Response	N/A
9	If this Warrant Article is not approved by Town Meeting what are the consequences to the Town and to the sponsor(s)? Please be specific on both financial and other consequences?

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Response If the article is not approved, the Town exemption amounts would revert to the State of Massachusetts guidelines. Financially, that would mean the loss of the 52.5% increase voted in FY18 and would result in a decrease in the exemption dollars granted to each qualified applicant. For example, a Senior (41C) would see a loss in exemption amount from \$1,525 in FY18 to \$1,000 in FY19 which is the state guideline. Non-approval of this article would result in significant tax dollar increases to all qualified applicants. This will cause an unexpected financial hardship and may impact their ability to stay in their homes.