

Charter Article 3 Elected Officers

Motion F:

(d) Preliminary Elections

- (1) **Candidates** - Any person who is qualified to vote in the town of Natick may be a candidate for an elective town office therein and shall be entitled to have his name as such candidate printed on the official ballot to be used at a preliminary election; provided that he shall file nomination papers provided by the town clerk containing twenty-five signatures certified as voters of the town.
- (2) **Date of Preliminary Election** - The preliminary election shall be held twenty-eight days preceding every regular or special town election.
- (3) **Elections to be Nonpartisan** - No primary or caucus for the nomination of town officers shall be held. No ballot used at any preliminary, regular or special election in said town shall have printed thereon any party or political designation or mark, and there shall not be appended to the name of any candidate any such political designation or mark.
- (4) **Filing of Nomination Papers** - Nomination papers must be filed with the town clerk not later than five o'clock in the afternoon of the thirty-fifth day preceding the preliminary election. Every nomination paper shall be submitted to the registrars of voters for certification of the names thereon on or before five o'clock in the afternoon of the fourteenth day preceding the day on which it must be filed with the clerk.
- (5) **Determination of the Candidates for Election** - The election officers shall immediately upon the closing of the polls at the preliminary election count the ballots and ascertain the number of votes cast in the several voting places for each candidate, and forthwith make return thereof upon blanks to be furnished, as in regular elections, to the town clerk who shall canvass said returns and shall forthwith determine the result thereof, and post the same in five conspicuous places in the town.
- (6) **Number of Candidates to be Chosen** - The two persons receiving at a preliminary election the highest number of votes for nomination for an office shall be the sole candidates for that office whose names may be printed on the official ballot to be used at the regular or special election at which such office is to be filled, and no acceptance of a nomination at a preliminary election shall be necessary to its validity.

If two or more persons are to be elected to the same office at such regular or special election, the several persons in number equal to twice the number so to be elected receiving at such preliminary election the highest number of votes for nomination for that office shall be the sole candidates for that office whose names may be printed on the official ballot.

If the preliminary election results in a tie vote among candidates for nomination receiving the lowest number of votes, which, but for said tie vote, would entitle a person receiving the same to have his name printed upon the official ballot for the election, all candidates participating in said tie vote shall have their names printed upon the official ballot, although in consequence there be printed thereon names of candidates to a number exceeding twice the number to be elected.

- (7) **Conditions Making Preliminary Election Unnecessary** - If at the expiration of the time for filing nomination papers of candidates to be voted for at any preliminary election not more than twice as many such papers have been filed with the town clerk for an office as there are persons to be elected to such office, the candidates whose nomination papers have thus been filed shall be deemed to have been nominated to said office, and their names shall be voted on for such office at the succeeding regular or special election, as the case may be, and the town clerk shall not print said names upon the ballot to be used at said preliminary election and no other nomination to said office shall be made. If in consequence it shall appear that no names are to be printed upon the official ballot to be used at any preliminary election in the town, no preliminary election shall be held.
- (8) **Application of State Laws** - Except as otherwise provided in this charter, the laws of the commonwealth governing town elections, special elections of town officers and special elections in towns shall, so far as applicable, govern such elections in the town of Natick. The foregoing procedures on preliminary elections shall not apply whenever the laws of the commonwealth regarding ranked choice voting in local elections shall be effective in the town.

Motion G:

- (f) **Coordination** - Notwithstanding their election by the voters, the town officers, excluding the Town Moderator, named in this section shall be subject to the call of the Select Board or the town administrator, at all reasonable times, for consultation, conference and discussion on any matter relating both i) to their respective offices ii) joint or overlapping areas of administrative activity or policy for the purpose of furthering coordinated administration of fiscal, prudential or municipal affairs of the executive branch of the town. Persons appointed by the Moderator are not subject to the call of the Select Board or town administrator. Notwithstanding this provision, the Select Board or town administrator may request consultation, conference or discussion with any multiple member body or town agency on any matter concerning the administration referenced in this sub section.

Motion H:

Section 3-12 Recreation and Parks Commission

- (b) **Powers and Duties** - The recreation and parks commission shall advise the town manager administrator and the responsible department heads on all matters relating to recreational programs conducted by the recreation and parks department and on the maintenance of recreational facilities where those programs are conducted. The commission shall assure that programs are devised and conducted to meet the leisure time needs of all segments of the population. The recreation and parks commission shall also advise the Select Board on policies and practices for parks and recreation in the town. Whenever the position of director of recreation and parks department shall become vacant, the commission shall serve as a screening committee for the filling of such vacancy and shall submit two or more names to the town administrator from whom the appointment shall be made.

Motion I:

Section 3-10 Town Moderator

- (a) **Term of Office** - There shall be a town moderator elected for a term of three years.
- (b) **Powers and Duties** - The town moderator shall be the presiding officer of the representative town meeting, as provided in Section 2-8, regulate its proceedings and perform such other duties as may be provided by general law, by charter, by by-law or by other town meeting vote.

(c) Appointment Powers

The town moderator shall appoint a deputy moderator, to preside over representative town meeting in the absence of the moderator. The moderator may also direct the deputy moderator to assist the moderator in performance of the moderator's duties and responsibilities. The deputy moderator shall be appointed for a term not to exceed the remaining term of the moderator. The town moderator shall have such other appointment power as provided in statute, charter or the bylaws or other vote of town meeting.