

Town Meeting June 15, 2016

Article 18

To see if the Town will vote to accept the requirements of 30-A M.R.S.A. Sec. 2501(3)(a), so as to require that only votes for declared write-in candidates will be counted. This change shall take effect 90 days after approval of this article.

Town Clerk's Statement

State Elections follow Title 21-A, Municipal Elections follow Title 30-A.

The proposed ordinance is intended to make counting the ballots more efficient by eliminating the requirement to examine ballots containing write-in votes for fictional characters such as Mickey Mouse or Santa Claus.

Recent change in legislation allows municipalities, by a vote at least 90 days before the next Annual election, opt to require local write in Candidates to declare their candidacy at least 45 days before the election, as now required for State Write-In Candidates.

This is the same deadline that Nominated Candidates are required to turn in nomination papers to the Town Clerk.

This deadline allows time for the programming of voting machines to count and sort ballots that contain a Write-In vote the same way that State Ballots are counted and sorted by the machines.

This change would also allow for a consistent tally process for Ballot Clerks after the polls close and eliminate the need to examine ballots containing write in votes for fictitious characters such as Mickey Mouse or Santa Claus.

In the case where there are no Nominated Candidates or Declared Candidates, all write-in votes would be tallied.