

INFORMATION ON SUBMITTING A CITIZEN PETITION
2026 Town Meeting

NOTE: Per Section 5.6.C of the Town of Salem Charter relating to citizen petitions under **NH RSA 39:3**, only citizen petitions requesting an appropriation of funds from the Town should follow these citizen petition guidelines.

New Hampshire RSA 39:3 requires that petition articles must have at least **twenty-five (25) signatures of registered voters in the Town of Salem** to be included on the warrant. *The RSA also states that the governing body (Town Council) shall insert the petitioned article with only such minor textual changes as may be required.* The Town Clerk will review all names to verify that signers are registered voters. Deadline for petition articles is **close of business (5:00 p.m.) Tuesday, January 13, 2026. (January 9th for warrant articles requiring a bond.)**

The **Town Council** will hold a meeting on **Wednesday, January 14, 2026**, to consider/vote on petition warrant articles. (Meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. at **Salem High School, Media Center, 44 Geremonty Drive**).

The **Budget Committee** will hold a meeting on **Wednesday, January 14, 2026** and conduct a preliminary discussion on warrant articles (including citizen petitions). (Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at **Salem High School, Media Center, 44 Geremonty Drive**).

The **Budget Committee** will hold a meeting on **Thursday, January 15, 2026** for a public hearing/vote on warrant articles (including citizen petitions).

Petition articles must be submitted to the Town Council/Town Manager's Office prior to the deadline to be considered for the Annual Town Meeting.

Please note if the petition article includes a cost for the project/item, that amount must be included as part of the language of the petition prior to gathering signatures.

Dates to remember:

- **January 13, 2026** (Tuesday) – Deadline to Submit Citizen Petition to Town Council (Petition must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. at the Town Manager's Office, Salem Town Hall) ***(January 9th for warrant articles requiring a bond.)***
- **January 14, 2026** (Wednesday) – Town Council Meeting, Public Hearing on Bonds/Notes, Citizen Petition Review/Votes. (Meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. at **Media Center, Salem High School, 44 Geremonty Drive**).
- **January 14, 2026** (Wednesday) – Budget Committee Meeting, Preliminary discussion on warrant articles (including citizen petitions). (Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at **Media Center, Salem High School, 44 Geremonty Drive**).
- **January 15, 2026** (Thursday) – Budget Committee Meeting, Public Hearing on warrant articles (including citizen petitions). (Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at **Knightly Meeting Room, Salem Town Hall, 33 Geremonty Drive**).
- **January 31, 2026** (Saturday) - Deliberative Session. (Meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. at the Salem High School Auditorium).
- **March 10, 2026** (Tuesday) – Ballot/Election Voting for Registered Voters. Polls open from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Please note that at least one individual should attend the Town Council and Budget Committee meetings of **January 14th**, as well as the **January 31st** deliberative session to speak on behalf of the petition. **Petitioners may also be requested by the Budget Committee's to attend the public hearing on January 15th.**

Please direct any questions to Maureen Witley in the Town Manager's Office at 603-890-2120 or by e-mail townmanager@salemnh.gov