

## Study Group For SB2 Analysis

An SB2 Study Group's purpose would be to document the facts associated with New London's possible adoption of an SB2 form of government to educate the SelectBoard and the community in their exploration and possible adoption of that alternative.

In its work, the Study Group could:

- Provide the definition of an SB1 and SB2 form of government.
- Provide some facts on the community's current engagement in governance (say over the last 10 years) that may support or dismiss the need for changing the form of government (e.g., % voters that go to polls, % voters that go to town meeting, etc.)
- Identify what is common and what is different between the two forms of government; Explain
  - deliberative sessions vs. town meetings
  - how the SB2 budget process is managed and presented to the public.
  - how information is disseminated for voting at the polls vs. the current town meeting.
- Identify how many NH communities have adopted SB2.
- Research sample of NH towns that have adopted SB2 and their post adoption satisfaction as a reference for community discussion.
  - Identify any lessons learned that can be included in New London's discussion and, if approved, transition to and implementation of an SB2 form of government.
  - Provide insight into the voter experience in SB2 vs. the current SB1 form of government?
- Document the implementation steps necessary for the town to make the change and the typical timeframe for the transition.
- Identify what costs, if any, would be incurred in making the transition.
- Identify any other governance changes that could be made coincidentally with the SB2 form of government that would enable a more streamlined and accountable governance structure (benchmarking a sample of towns might offer insights).
- Develop a list of pros and cons associated with changing the form of government considering the collected data.

- Provide some commentary on the “so what” of the change:
  - To the budgeting process
  - To the SelectBoard process
  - To the Town Meeting / Vote at Polls process
- ❖ This last bullet would represent the subjective views of the Study Group