

# SB2 Study Committee Findings

Presentation to Select Board – October 23, 2025

Committee Members:

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**SB2 Study Committee's purpose:** 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.

Efforts Included:

- Define SB2 relative to current form of government.
- Provide some facts on community's current engagement in governance (e.g., % voters that go to polls, % voters that go to town meeting).
- Identify what is common and what is different between SB2 and current form of government.
- Identify how many NH communities have adopted SB2.
- What is a Default Budget?
- Research sample of NH towns that have adopted SB2 and their post adoption satisfaction as a reference for community discussion.
  - Identify any lessons learned.
  - Provide insight into the voter experience in SB2 vs. the current Town Meeting form of government?
- Town Personnel Interviews.
- Document implementation steps, timeframe and costs for the transition.
- New London Citizen Comments.
- Develop a list of pros and cons associated with changing the form of government considering the collected data.
- Identify any other governance changes that could be made coincidentally with the SB2 form of government.
- Next Steps.
- Commentary / Subjective views of the Study Group.
- Back-up Data.

- The SB2 form of government was instituted by the state legislature in **1995**
  - **Concerns that modern lifestyles** made it difficult for people to attend traditional town meetings.
  - Residents vote in an SB2 election at a polling place throughout the day; may also vote by absentee ballot.
- Under SB2, a first session, called a “**Deliberative Session**”, is held about a month prior to the town election.
  - ***Similar in many ways to the traditional town meeting.***
    - Warrant articles are still debated.
    - Wording and dollar amounts of proposed ballot measures may be amended, **BUT** no actual voting on proposals takes place.
- The second session, held on a set election day, is when issues such as the **town’s budget** and other warrant articles are **voted upon at the polling site**.
  - The Default Budget Applies Only to the Operating Budget; Other appropriations voted separately.
- **3/5 Majority Vote to adopt** SB2 form of government
  - Municipalities may switch back to the traditional town meeting form by a **3/5 majority vote**.
- RSA 40:13 (Use of Official ballot) is a good source for procedures.

# New London's Past Engagement In Governance

## New London Voting and Town Meeting Data

New London – Smaller Percent Driving Decisions							
Year	NL Registered Voters <sup>1</sup>	NL #'s Voting at Polls <sup>1</sup>	% Registered Voters Voting @ Polls	NL #'s Going to Town Meeting <sup>2</sup>	% Registered Voters @ Town Meeting	60% Bond Approval Required	What the 60% Is in % Registered Voters
2015	3636	1003	27.6%	221	6.1%	133	3.7%
2016	3572	711	19.9%	238	6.7%	143	4.0%
2017	3891	824	21.2%	175	4.5%	105	2.7%
2018	3485	626	18%	231	6.6%	139	4.0%
2019	3676	687	18.7%	220	6.0%	132	3.6%
2020	3800	416	10.9%	147	3.9%	88	2.3%
2021	4069	476	11.7%	147 <sup>3</sup>	3.6%	88	2.2%
2022	3497	1052	30.1%	142 <sup>4</sup>	4.1%	85	2.4%
2023	3643	543	14.9%	387	10.6%	232	6.4%
2024	3639	1053	28.9%	398	10.9%	239	6.6%
2025	3845	1036	26.9%	558	14.5%	335	8.7%
				396	10.3%	238	6.2%

**Observation:**

- Major funding (Bonds) decided by a small number of voters/taxpayers

2 Town Meetings

Footnotes:  
 1./2. Source: Town of New London Town Meeting Minutes; New London Town Clerk's Office; & Town Annual Reports  
 3. Estimate: no Bond; data not recorded  
 4. 152 Voters present but only 142 voted

**Observations:**

- Contentious issues increase Town Meeting Attendance; e.g., Police Facility debate 2023 – 2025
- Even then, % participation at Town Meeting far less than those voting at polls

# Traditional Town Meeting vs. SB2 Form of Government

Based on DoR 2025 Schedule

	Traditional Town Meeting	SB2	Comments
Budget Preparation			
Petitioned Bond Articles	✓	✓	<p><b>SB2 Schedule about 3.5 – 4 weeks sooner than Traditional Town Meeting</b> Public Hearing on or before the third Tuesday in January</p> <p><b>*Default Budget presented as well</b></p>
Bond Hearings	✓	✓	
Public Hearing on Budget	✓	✓ *	
Post Warrant and Budget	✓	✓	
Deliberative Session	N/A	✓	Session is 4.5 – 5.5 weeks prior to poll voting; Default Budget disclosed/discussed - can't be amended. Articles can be modified (except those prescribed by law); not voted on.
Annual Report to legislative body (Community)	✓	✓	Due Date Same For Both
Ballot Voting	✓	✓	Same Date For Both; SB2 Votes Budget at Polls Eliminating Need for “Business Meeting” (New London typically Day after Poll Voting)
Town “Business Meeting”	✓	N/A	Articles can be modified (except those prescribed by law) and are voted on at meeting
DRA Submission	✓	✓	Due Date Same For Both
SelectBoard Work	No Change Except Schedule		Party for presenting default budget must be identified; RSA 40-14-b allows for delegation to Budget Committee
Budget Committee Work	No Change Except Schedule		

# Traditional Town Meeting vs. Deliberative Sessions

Source: NHMA 1/14/2025 Presentation: Moderator's Role at the Deliberative Session of Town Meeting and RSA's

- **General Rule:** any vote can be reconsidered until the deliberative session adjourns, unless reconsideration has been restricted by vote of the meeting. RSA 40:10, I and RSA 40:13, IV
  - Unlike traditional town meeting, SB2:
    - Has no meeting 7 days later
    - Has no reconsideration after ballot session, **except**
      - If the operating budget fails, the default budget is adopted **unless** the governing body (SelectBoard in New London) decides to hold one special meeting to address a revised operating budget. See RSA 40:13, X-XI XVI for considerations\*
- **Traditional Town Meeting Warrant Article Amendments**
  - Voters **may decide not to decide**, by “passing over” an article.
  - The voters may also amend articles subject to rules defined in law.
  - Cannot add appropriations that have not been discussed at the budgetary public hearing.
- **SB 2 Deliberative Session Warrant Article Amendments:**
  - **Meeting cannot “decide not to decide”**; all articles go to the ballot in some form. RSA 40:13, VI.
  - Power to amend is limited by law as well (see RSA 40:13,IV).
    - Can change the dollar amount of an appropriation, all the way to zero.
    - Cannot “eliminate the subject matter of the article” (eff. 2/4/2011).
  - The ballot uses the language as amended.
  - **Default Budget is presented**; warrant article has very specific wording.

\* RSA 40:13 X. If no operating budget article is adopted, the local political subdivision either shall be deemed to have approved the default budget or the governing body may hold a special meeting pursuant to paragraph XVI to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only; provided that RSA 31:5 and RSA 197:3 shall not apply to such a special meeting. If no operating budget article is adopted the estimated revenues shall nevertheless be deemed to have been approved.

# What is A Default Budget?

From NHDRA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE For SB2 (Official Ballot Referenda) and RSA's

- The **default budget is last years budget with certain adjustments.**
  - **Calculation is statutorily defined;** Special default operating budget form shows last year's operating budget with adjustments made per RSA 40:13, IX (b)
  - It needs to be disclosed and presented for questions and discussion at the first budget hearing held pursuant to RSA 32:5 or RSA 197:6.
  - **Majority vote (at the polls) required.**
- **Specific ballot wording:** "Shall the (local political subdivision) raise and appropriate as an **operating budget**, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$ \_\_\_\_\_? Should this article be defeated, the **default budget** shall be \$ \_\_\_\_\_, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the (local political subdivision) or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only."
  - **The operating budget article should NOT include any of the other warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately.** To help voters understand the budget amount and wording presented in the article, **DRA suggests adding a note** similar to: This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in ANY other warrant articles.
  - It important to distinguish between a "special" or "individual" warrant article: **The wording of these articles determines whether they can be considered part of the default budget next year.**
- If a political subdivision maintains a separate fund for the revenues and expenditures related to the operation, maintenance, and improvement of a water or **sewer** system, and if any appropriation for such fund is to be raised through user fees or charges and is included in a warrant article separate from the operating budget, the warrant article may include a default amount for such appropriation. **Calculation and application of default budget similar.**

# SB2 Impacts on Responsibilities

- All personnel with budget responsibility (Department Heads, Budget Committee, SelectBoard):
  - **Time frame for budget preparation / presentation moved up about a month.**
- Three other functions impacted:
  - Town Clerk
    - Possible increase in Absentee Ballots
    - Possible increase in # of Ballot pages
  - Finance Director
    - Development of Default Budget for Public Hearing, Deliberative Session
      - Recent Automation should minimize impact
    - Working with SelectBoard/Budget Committee to define what is in operating budget vs. what is in separate articles
  - Checklist Supervisors must hold sessions to correct checklist before both the deliberative session and the voting session; Possible increase time in ballot counting.

# Other NH Communities SB2 Adoption

- Per NH Department Of Revenue Administration Report: **of the 221 NH Towns 33% currently are SB2**
  - 3 changed to, and then rescinded SB2 form of government
  - (Source Compiled 12-18-24: <https://www.revenue.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt736/files/documents/sb2-entities.pdf> )
  - Committee Reached out to 13 towns; Detailed information in back-up

- General Themes Gleaned From Other Towns:

	Theme	Traditional Town Meeting	SB2
1	Budget Development Schedule/Accuracy		✓
2	Meeting Attendance	✓	✓
3	Voter Experience	✓ Meeting Length	✓ Ballot Length
4	Information Availability & Accuracy	✓	✓

Observations
1. Important Note: Community participation in budget starts with BC meetings/Public Hearing
2. Voter participation at deliberative sessions lower % than at polls (No data on their Town Meeting attendance; anecdotal data showed small #'s at Town Meeting often cause for pro SB2 sentiment in those communities).
3. Voter experience issues exist with either form of government.
4. New London should <b>consider mailer to inform voters under either system</b>

# Town Personnel Interviews

Town Clerk, Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Supervisors of Checklist, Finance Director, Budget Committee Chair

- Comments At Meeting:
  - **Tradition:** Town meeting being one of the only community activities remaining.
  - Concerns about recent **Sunapee** (an SB2 town) vote resulting in a default budget and its consequences.
  - Low **attendance levels** at deliberative and town meetings.
    - Generally agreed meeting attendance increases when there is a controversial issue, citing examples of Croydon, the recent Kearsarge School vote and the New London police facility.
  - Whether and, if so, how various responsibilities might change under an SB2 form of government; Examples:
    - Understanding SB2 impact on the voting process (voting for budget at polls vs. at town meeting, number of pages on a ballot and that impact on ballot testing, voter time at the polls, ballot processing).
    - Change to finance function not expected to be material: Developing and presenting a default budget; budget material required about a month earlier. Not expected to materially impact Budget Committee.
  - **Need for better voter information** (e.g., voter guide) being available regardless of the form of government.
  - **Possible cost impact** of adopting an SB2 form of government: **See next page.**
  - Assuming an SB2 article is placed on the warrant, placing a separate article which would follow the SB2 vote appropriating money for first year implementation so as not to burden the present budget assumptions. This article would be proposed should the SB2 article pass.

# Implementation Steps, Timeline And Costs

- If SB2 adopted by Voters, it would take effect at next voting cycle.
- During the ensuing year:
  - There will be a **learning curve** for Town Clerk, Finance Director, Moderator, SelectBoard and Budget Committee which will add to the near-term job responsibility.
  - Will need to become familiar with SB2 requirements and adjust schedule accordingly.
  - Town Finance Director will need to develop Default Budget.
  - Election team will need to account for **possible** longer voting time per voter (longer ballots) and possible increase in absentee ballot requests.
- Possible cost impacts of adopting an SB2 form of government:
  - **Ballot length** impacting printing costs; ballot processing (absentee ballots and ballot counting (ballots are counted twice)).
  - Time for a voter to complete voting and to feed ballot into machine may take longer (possibly impacting whether Whipple Hall will be adequate).
  - Time to test ballot machines may increase; possible need to test more machines.
    - Ballot machines may need more frequent cleaning due to dust cumulating from processing ballot pages.
  - Possibly more signs around town for or against one or more articles and the cost pressures associated with ensuring the signs were being properly posted.

# New London Citizen Comments

- Town meeting allows one to see neighborhood emotional interest.
- Town meeting enables robust debate.
- (New London Resident with experience when living in a different town): Attendance at separate SB2 deliberative meetings tend to be much sparser than at traditional town meetings.
  - Many voters lost benefit of questions and deliberations that precede voting at traditional town meetings.
  - Urge committee to consider question of how each kind of meeting results in informed voters.
- Should we be concerned about potential impact of Colby Sawyer Students voting on budget?
  - One thing about registered voters that gives me pause...has been the emphasis on getting Colby-Sawyer students to register and vote in recent elections. Particularly the presidential. I know folks have often commented about how unfair it is (?) to have students (the majority of which are temporary in their residency) voting for local and state officials for whom they will not be impacted by once they leave Town (and, for many, the state). The same could be said if they voted on Town budget matters for which the results could have no lasting affect upon them. (They wouldn't really have to worry about property tax impact for a 30-year bond debt.). Technically, as a registered voter, they could come to Town meeting but I would say that is a 'rarity'.
- Does SB2 change or improve the quality of the outcome?

# New London Citizen Comments (Cont.)

- I personally have liked the old town meeting tradition but strangely have not enjoyed attending them.
  - If we go to SB2, I hope we can consider going to a May voting day which would lengthen the budget year and make it more contiguous with the beginning of our fiscal year.
    - [Response: The March date would still need to be kept for the school ballot, unless School changes dates as well (probably needing all towns to agree). So, we would end up with 2 elections (March and May) and, in the years where state and national elections occur, possibly 3 different days for the polls (adding November).....all that equals cost (Town running the elections) and possible voter confusion.]
- We need to change the way we govern and make tax decisions in New London. Our current system of voting for warrant articles at our town's March meeting does not allow sufficient time for deliberation, discussion, and education on the issues facing New London residents. SB -2 would allow for the time needed to inform and educate our taxpayers prior to voting.
- At Town Meeting, there have been instances when a motion has been proposed to modify an article. The supporters of the amendment present their arguments in favor of the change. And those against it make their case. However, those unfamiliar with the proposed amendment may find themselves at a disadvantage, as they lack the time to independently evaluate the amendment or consider it more thoughtfully before casting their vote.
  - Under SB-2, the period between the deliberative session and the voting session allows voters to study any changes to articles made during the deliberative session. Additionally, voters have clarity on the "final" wording of articles that will appear on the ballot for the voting session.

## New London Citizen Comments (Cont.)

- Possibly the greatest advantage of SB2 is that it enables more voter participation. There are many people who either can't or don't want to sit through the painfully long town meeting. Who actually thinks it is a good idea to have this significant hurdle to voting.
  - Misinformation can be stated at either a deliberative session or town meeting (which occurred at our last meeting). It would be impossible or impractical to have official fact checking and people can respond to another person's statement at either meeting. The major advantage of SB2 is that there is an opportunity to reflect, research and learn before voting.
  - If I was to summarize, SB2 is clearly a better mechanism to support the principles of democracy. It can increase voter participation. It allows for more opportunities for information to be shared and learned before the voting. And has the potential side effect that the budget will be more responsible.
- The town has moved past when the traditional town meeting makes sense.

# Pros and Cons of SB2

## Pro SB2

- **Town Meeting not well attended**; minority of voters can control town actions.
  - Weather and evening hours pose additional complications with Town Meeting
- Voting at Polls participation is higher; **SB2 secures broader public input**, including absentee ballots.
  - More convenient for elderly, those with families and those working multiple jobs; open 7-7
  - Higher participation in Town's management.
- Voters have opportunity for debate and education at deliberative session. Can amend articles; vote later.
- **Opportunity to educate voters** between deliberative session and election day; voters have time to think about issues.

## Con SB2

- Town Meeting is a New England and New London tradition
- **Deliberative sessions not well attended**; special interest groups/minority of voters can control budget.
- Voters have benefit of debate & education at town meeting. Can amend articles; Vote at town meeting.
- **Voters less informed when voting at polls.**
- Opportunity for greater misinformation and disinformation between deliberative session and election day.
- Size of ballot could be issue
- Some People may vote their pocketbook at the polls.

## Observations

- Arguments for and against offset each other
- Common to both SB2 and traditional Town meeting is **community participation and information availability/accuracy**
  - SB2 addresses participation through higher poll voting %'s
  - **Information availability/accuracy needs attention under both forms of government**

# Other Governance Changes To Consider

- **Include estimated tax rate impact of each article in warrant.**
  - **Increases transparency;** Enables visibility into tax impact of appropriations.
  - See RSA 32: VB V-b.
    - Any town may vote to require that the annual budget and all special warrant articles having a tax impact, as determined by the governing body, shall contain a notation stating the **estimated tax impact** of the article. (Emphasis added)
    - The determination of the estimated tax impact shall be subject to approval by the governing body.
- **Adopt 5 as number of SelectBoard Members vs. current 3 members** (method to change defined in statute).

- **If SelectBoard wants to move forward:**
  1. Determine how to best **educate** citizens on SB2 form of government.
  2. Determine whether Budget Committee should present **Default Budget**.
    - History: By Town vote, New London gave responsibility for budget to Budget Committee – does not change with SB2
    - Town can also give responsibility for default budget to Budget Committee; otherwise, responsibility would rest with the SelectBoard; Accomplished with a **different article** (RSA 40:14-b), either in the same year or a later year.
  3. Prepare **one or both articles** for the warrant (from NHDRA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE For SB2 (Official Ballot Referenda) and RSA's:
    - For the **SB2 decision**: The local governing body must hold a public hearing at least 15 days prior to the question being voted on (RSA 40:14, IV). The question as worded in RSA 40:14 V, “Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the (insert local political subdivision) on the second Tuesday of (insert Month)?” **Passage requires a 3/5 majority vote of those voting.**
    - For the **Default budget responsibility** assignment to the Budget Committee: The question can be put before the voters on the warrant for the annual meeting after a public hearing is held on the question. Required wording per RSA 40:14-b is: “Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:14-b to delegate the determination of the default budget to the municipal budget committee which has been adopted under RSA 32:14?” **Passage requires a 3/5 majority ballot vote.**

4. Address whether separate article to address additional **costs** should be placed on warrant.
5. Address whether town should include **tax impact** in articles and prepare article if agree.
6. Address whether town should **increase SelectBoard size** and prepare article if agree.
7. **Regardless of SB2 decision**, address how the town can accurately inform its voters on the articles under consideration (e.g., voter guide).

# Committee's Commentary / Subjective Views

- I prefer traditional Town Meeting as it involves community, it's a chance to listen to neighbors, and voters are informed about each article prior to a vote. Voters have the opportunity to ask questions.
  - I do recognize that SB2 voter participation is higher; however, voters tend to be less informed. The challenge for the Selectboard and town officials is how best to deliver accurate information to the voters.
  
- Data indisputably indicates that there is broader citizen participation at polls vs. at town meeting.
  - We need to do much more to objectively and accurately inform the community about the issues and consequences of a vote. It should not be a major hurdle in a small community such as ours.
  - I, like others, may yearn for how things were in the past, how the community, almost all of whom lived and worked in the town or nearby, gathered after a long winter to discuss the town's needs. Today is different in many respects and the future will be different again. So, an overwhelming question I have is: Do we want to deny our neighbors their right to vote for nostalgia?
  
- My major concern is fairness, that every voter should have the opportunity to vote.

- Other Town Interviews / Research
  - Questions and responses
- Various Links:
  - 2025 Department of Revenue Administration Annual Meeting Schedule
  - NH Department of Revenue Technical Assistance For SB2
  - Forms of Town Government in NH
  - Hopkinton, NH Public Hearing on SB2

# Other Town Research / Interviews

- Questions:
  - Identify the size of the town.
  - Identify the size of the administrative staff.
  - Identify why the town decided to make the change to SB2
  - Identify any lessons learned by the town.
  - Provide insight into the voter experience before and after adopting the SB2 form of government.
  - Identify whether the town has an elected Budget Committee? Advisory Budget Committee? No Budget Committee?
  - Secure an example of the SB2 Ballot; How does the ballot represent the budget (one line item of the operating budget or multiple line items, how are proposals for reserves presented)?
  - How did the transition to SB2 go; how long did it take, any specific lessons learned?
  - What costs, if any, were incurred in the transition?
  - Identify what was the impact on staff, with some focus on the finance organization and the town clerk.
  - How did the town educate the community on the proposed change to SB2?
- It was agreed that a sample of towns that adopted SB2 and then rescinded that decision (research currently shows 4) also should be interviewed. For those discussions, in addition to understanding the above questions for those towns, the following should also be explored:
  - What issue(s) caused the town to rescind its decision?
  - How long did it take to get the decision reversed?
  - What costs, if any, were incurred to reverse the decision?

Town	Population	Yr Adopted SB2	Staff Size	Reason for switching to SB2	Traditional TM Attendance	Deliberative Attendance	SelectBoard Size	Budget Committee
Deerfield	4,907	2005	TA, Adm Asst, Assessing, Fin, Code Enf, TC/TC, Dep TC/TC	Probably to control spending		≈100	5	Elected Budget Committee
Enfield	4,465	1996 but 2001 Rescinded	TM, Asst TM (Fin), AP/Payroll, Assessing, TC, DepTC, Parttime DepTax Coll	More people would vote	More attend Town Meeting. No numbers provided	Rescinded 5 yrs after adoption	5	Budget Committee
Lee	4,589	2011	TA, Asst TA, Bkkpr, TC/TC, Dep TC, Asst TC	Resident petition in effort to control spending	150	35	3	Advisory
Sunapee	3453 / 3365	1997	Town Mgr, Town Clerk			Low	5	3 Members appointed plus Dept. heads
Weare	9,092	1996	TA plus 9: Fin, Adm Asst to TA/Tax, Land Use, Asses, Bidg, Zoning, TC, Dep TC	State Rep Neil Kurk lives in Weare and was behind it.	More attend Town Meeting. No numbers provided.	Varies 30 usually but can increase to 100+	5	Advisory BC appointed by Moderator
Newport	6410	2007	Town Mgr, Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Ass't Town Clerk	Less voters at town Meeting each year	Less each year	Unknown _ TV and You Tube availability makes count difficult	5	11 appointed members
Charlestown	4919	1996	Town Clerk/Tax Collector				5	Finance Committee: 9 Members

Town	Impact on Staff	2025 'Town' Ballot Size	Added Costs	Educating Community	Has the town considered rescinding	Voters	Budget
Deerfield		5 pages		Website, 1,000 subscribers to email	Unlikely	1,493	Default
Enfield		N/A		Warrant with a narrative explanation. Budget hearings. All mtgs recorded & Posted. Town has YouTube channel	in 2024 by petition, article to adopt SB2. Article failed.	339	Passed; 2 bond issues passed
Lee	Prep for deliberative similar to traditional	4 pages	Ballots - as you need to list all warrant besides candidates	Didn't before but after adopted via newsletter, budget hearing. Lynch pin is the moderator, if up to speed you're good.	Petitioned to rescind for 1-2 years after adoption but both failed.	≅ 782	Passed
Sunapee	TC indicated none he knows about	4 pages (1 page zoning related)		Deliberative Booklet	TC on job for 3 years; doesn't believe anyone has asked for reconsideration	1,043 (34%)	Default (only 3 budget articles failed)
Weare	Town Clerk & Deputy TC impacted the most. Lots of volunteers.	3 Pages	Printing cost increase - lots of pages. Mailing cost increased.	For warrant - mailer, voters guide	Discussion but never tried	≅ 1,889	Default
Newport	Per Town Clerk, less work with new tabulators	Worksheet shows 29 Articles	Per Town Clerk - none	Mailings before and after deliberative session	Twice in early years; both failed	4026	Default in 2024; passed in 2025
Charlestown		2 Pages				892	Passed except one article

Town	Comments
<b>Deerfield</b>	Resident Before SB2 our budget always passed, under SB2 Deerfield's town budget has failed most years (like 11) and the town is now having serious issues with regard to roads, infrastructure, etc....
<b>Enfield</b>	Town Administrator: The voter turnout did not increase much, deliberative session turnout was very low, tough to get information out to voters. Did not know town meeting attendance levels pre-SB2
<b>Lee</b>	Per TA: Actual citizen participation goes way down, traditional town meeting would draw 150 people. SB2 adopted 1st try- well organized. Per Resident Worries that individuals are less connected to town govt and may have diminished appreciation for the democratic process.
<b>Sunapee</b>	Resident 6-week period from the Deliberative to Voting Day - lots of misinformation circulates which is difficult to correct divisive feeling in the community which is normally friendly. (Per resident). Town Clerk happy with SB2.
<b>Weare</b>	Many default budgets, staffing shortages shifted the workload to others and added on top of their current workload. What SB2 has done is empower more voters to participate in the elections, but they have seemingly done so without much knowledge. (Per TA & a resident)
<b>Newport</b>	Two Citizens and Town Clerk very much in favor of SB2.
<b>Charlestown</b>	Article not passed was non-financial (to decrease SelectBoard to 3)

Town	Population	Yr Adopted SB2	Staff Size	Reason for switching to SB2	Traditional TM Attendance	Deliberative Attendance	SelectBoard Size	Budget Committee
Danbury	1324	2006	Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk				3	Elected (6 members) plus one SelectBoard ex officio member
Chester (Schools)	~5300	2008, Rescinded 2012	Fin Officer, Fin Dir, Treasurer, Town Planner, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Deputy Town Clerk, Asst. Town Clerk, Town Admin	Unsatisfied w/ having to devote a night to meeting, took exception to ~200 voters deciding budget			N/A	Voted; 7 members and 2 ex-officio from SelectBoard
Nottingham	~5400	2020	Finance, Highway, Planning, Town Admin, Tax Collector and (separate) Town Clerk	No response to inquiry after first note which indicated she was new to town and would research if someone could help.			5	Elected: 9 plus 1 from SelectBoard and 1 from School Board
Candia	~4300	2006	Town Admin, Admin Assistant, Acctg/Payroll Specialist, Finance Off. Assistant, Tax Collector, Deputy Tax Collector, Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Land Use Coordinator	No response to inquiry			5	Elected
Pittsfield	~4200	2018	Town Admin, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector		5	Appointed		
Greenland	~4000	2015	Town Admin, Admin Assisitant, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector		5	Elected		

Town	Impact on Staff	2025 'Town' Ballot Size	Added Costs	Educating Community	Has the town considered rescinding	Voters	Budget
Danbury							
Chester (Schools)	Per email, Not a material impact. Had to become familiar with requirements of statute.		Retired School Board member didn't recall major costs for transition. Ongoing: some extra work related to number of articles and production of ballot	Didn't think they were successful in educating community on SB2. Most folks didn't realize that they needed to participate in budgeting process early on and not wait for deliberative session.	Rescinded		
Nottingham		7 pages (4 pages zoning related)		From its website: "Why use the phrase "Town Meeting" if Nottingham no longer does the traditional Town Meeting and is now following SB2? Both the Deliberative Session and Election Day are two halves to a process, and in it's entirety that's our Town Meeting. Decisions are deliberated on in the first half, then voted on in the second half."		~1318	Passed
Candia		6 pages (3+ Zoning related)		FAQ section on website re: budget process		-978	Passed; School Budget Default, but passed collective bargaining raises
Pittsfield		Summary sheet showed 10 articles			2025 Article to rescind failed with 53% vote	578	Passed
Greenland		4 pages (different layout)		12 Page Voting Guide		-667	Passed

Town	Comments
Danbury	
Chester (Schools)	Budget development and presentation process very different under SB2, need information earlier. Estimated costs were found to be less accurate when under SB2 because of schedule 2-3 months earlier. Late breaking news couldn't be factored into ballot after deliberative session where in town meeting format, discussions and changes can be made. Rescinded: Those "truly engaged" in workings of town were not satisfied with "binary" budget process and Budget Committee didn't see SB2 as an improvement.
Nottingham	New to SB2, but has 15 years in local government work; prefers traditional town meeting.
Candia	
Pittsfield	
Greenland	

# Various Links

- SB2 2025 Meeting Schedule
  - <https://www.revenue.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt736/files/documents/timeline-for-sb2-annual-meeting-march.pdf>
- Traditional Town Meeting 2025 Schedule
  - <https://www.revenue.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt736/files/documents/timeline-for-traditional-town-meeting-march.pdf>
- NH Department of Revenue Technical Assistance For SB2:
  - <https://www.revenue.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt736/files/inline-documents/sonh/municipal-property/technical-assistance-sb2.pdf>
- Forms of Town Government in NH:
  - <https://www.nheconomy.com/getmedia/19b1a519-1c73-4a48-ad4e-b5588a49750f/forms-of-town-government.pdf>
- Town of Hopkinton, NH Public Hearing on SB2 (The SB2 material starts at time stamp 33:45 and goes to the end):
  - <https://www.youtube.com/live/MZW3S70-Ge8>