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—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers
—Format.....Opinions - Letters to the Editor - Special
—Dateline.....Brattleboro
—Article Number:.....42961



Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 'We deserve a direct say in how those funds are spent'

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

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####END SUBHED####

3 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

4 Brattleboro is facing a number of complex and critical
5 votes this spring. Having attended numerous board meetings over
6 the past year, it is clear that we are navigating significant
7 challenges and several confusing decisions, including:
8 • Representative Town Meeting (RTM): A vote on
9 whether to continue this format, which will significantly impact
10 our future governance.

- 11 • Australian ballot petition: A petition to move to the
12 Australian ballot system, which must be decided by town voters.
- 13 • Open Town Meeting petition: A petition to adopt an
14 open Town Meeting format, also requiring a town-wide vote.
- 15 • Town charter updates: Proposed changes to the town
16 charter are ready for the Selectboard, many of which depend on
17 the outcome of our governance decisions.

18 These outcomes will directly shape how Brattleboro
19 conducts business for years to come. Every citizen has a right to
20 vote and should do so with a clear understanding of the issues.
21 Given the high percentage of income we contribute to local
22 taxes, we deserve a direct say in how those funds are spent.

23 I believe we would achieve more equitable
24 representation by voting no on the continuance of the RTM and
25 yes for the Australian (secret) ballot. Brattleboro is currently the
26 only town in Vermont using the RTM format.

27 Transitioning to a secret ballot ensures that everyone can
28 participate — including those with physical limitations, child
29 care responsibilities, or work commitments — without being
30 required to spend an entire day in a meeting to cast a vote. This
31 “one person, one vote” approach allows every resident to have
32 their voice heard fairly and privately.

33 Please stay informed and make your voice heard this
34 voting season.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

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####END BIO/COATTAIL####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

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LINKS:

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VIDEO:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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