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—Dateline.....Brattleboro
—Article Number:.....42979



Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Let every voice be heard, let every vote count equally

####END HED####

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2

####END SUBHED####

3 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

4 While it's encouraging that we're finally approaching a
5 more inclusive way of recognizing the voices of Brattleboro
6 residents, let's not stop short. Let's take this initiative all the way
7 to the finish line — and make it truly inclusive for all.

8 The survey that solidified the proposed Representative
9 Town Meeting (RTM) changes made one thing clear: Many of us
10 want a different forum — one where every voice is heard and,
11 even more importantly, every vote counts equally.

12 We now have the opportunity to let every Brattleboro
13 registered voter participate — to decide for themselves whether
14 or not to vote and to do so in the privacy and dignity of their own
15 space.

16 Not everyone can spend hours or even days at Town
17 Meetings. Not everyone feels comfortable speaking publicly,
18 raising hands or standing up to vote, especially when they fear
19 repercussions for their vote.

20 The Australian ballot system solves this. It ensures that
21 every voice can be heard, regardless of schedule, comfort level,
22 or ability to attend in person. It opens the door to those who have
23 long been left out — our elderly neighbors who helped build this
24 town, or a single parent juggling work and children.

25 In summary:

- 26 1. Vote yes on eliminating Representative Town Meeting
27 (RTM) in favor of one person, one vote.
28 2. Vote yes to changing to Australian (secret) ballot.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

29

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

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

30

0

####END MAXISSUE####

LINKS:

####BEGIN LINKS####

31

####END LINKS####

VIDEO:

###BEGIN VIDEO###

32

###END VIDEO###

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

###BEGIN LOGLINE###

33

###END LOGLINE###