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—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers  
—Format.....Opinions - Letters to the Editor - Special  
—Dateline.....Brattleboro  
—Article Number:.....43180



**Notes from editor (not for publication):**



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Australian ballot ensures everyone can discuss, amend,  
2 and vote

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

3

####END SUBHED####

4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 I am writing to clarify some misconceptions regarding  
6 the Australian ballot system.

7 Contrary to recent claims, this system does not limit or  
8 disallow discussion or amendments. In fact, while neither the  
9 Representative Town Meeting (RTM) nor the open Town Meeting  
10 (OTM) have statutory requirements for informational  
11 deliberations prior to voting, Australian ballot voting specifically

12 requires the representative body to hold a public informational  
13 hearing, as per [17 V.S.A. section 2680\(h\)](#).

14 If the Selectboard prepares the budget in a timely  
15 manner, an informational meeting can be held prior to the 30-day  
16 warning. This provides interested parties the opportunity to  
17 discuss the proposal and suggest amendments.

18 The budget can then be modified to accommodate those  
19 amendments before it is finalized and balloted after the 30-day  
20 warning.

21 The Australian ballot ensures everyone can participate in  
22 the process: discuss, amend, and vote.

23 Regarding the upcoming articles, my positions are as  
24 follows: Article 2, yes; Article 3, yes; Article 4, no.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

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

25

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

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

26

0

####END MAXISSUE####

LINKS:

####BEGIN LINKS####

27

####END LINKS####

VIDEO:

####BEGIN VIDEO####

28

###END VIDEO###

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

###BEGIN LOGLINE###

29

###END LOGLINE###