

## **1. Petition to Warn An Article at Town Meeting Day to Appoint Plainfield Town Clerk**

We, the undersigned voters of the Town of Plainfield, believe that certain changes to the form of municipal government will allow the Town to operate with greater accountability. We believe that accountability to the people of Plainfield would be more easily achieved if the Town Clerk position was appointed, rather than elected. The Selectboard is responsible for town government, yet they have limited authority to manage the town government administration. It makes little sense for non-policy positions to be immune from supervision by elected officials who are fully responsible for town affairs.

Therefore, we hereby petition the Selectboard to warn the following questions for the annual meeting on March 5, 2024:

1. Shall the Town of Plainfield, empowered by 17 V.S.A § 2651e, authorize the Selectboard to appoint Plainfield's Town Clerk in lieu of being elected by the town's registered voters?

## **2. Petition to Change Residency Requirement for Plainfield Town Clerk**

We, the undersigned voters of the Town of Plainfield, believe that certain changes to the form of municipal government will allow the Town to operate with greater accountability. We believe that the complexity of municipal government has grown to the point that limiting the pool of prospective candidates for Town Clerk to those who live strictly within the geographical boundaries of Plainfield – and not one inch over the line – does not allow for the selection or election of the most qualified candidate. A single candidate is not a choice, nor is zero candidates, which could easily happen. Revising the Plainfield residency requirement for Town Clerk will allow for the selection or election of the most qualified individual.

Therefore, we hereby petition the Selectboard to warn the following questions for the annual meeting on March 5, 2024:

1. Shall the Town of Plainfield, empowered by 17 V.S.A § 2646a, authorize the Selectboard to allow Plainfield's municipal clerk to be resident of the State of Vermont, rather than exclusively the Town of Plainfield?

## **3. Petition to Warn an Article at Town Meeting Day to Appoint Plainfield Town Treasurer**

We, the undersigned voters of the Town of Plainfield, believe that certain changes to the form of municipal government will allow the Town to operate with greater accountability. We believe that accountability to the people of Plainfield would be more easily achieved if the Town Clerk position was appointed, rather than elected. The Selectboard is responsible for town government, yet they have limited authority to manage the town government administration. It makes little sense for non-policy positions to be immune from supervision by elected officials who are fully responsible for town affairs.

Therefore, we hereby petition the Selectboard to warn the following questions for the annual meeting on March 5, 2024:

1. Shall the Town of Plainfield, empowered by 17 V.S.A § 2651f, authorize the Selectboard to appoint Plainfield's Town Treasurer in lieu of being elected by the town's registered voters?

#### **4. Petition To Change the Residency Requirement for Plainfield Town Treasurer**

We, the undersigned voters of the Town of Plainfield, believe that certain changes to the form of municipal government will allow the Town to operate with greater accountability. We believe that the complexity of municipal government has grown to the point that limiting the pool of prospective candidates for Town Treasurer to those who live within geographical boundaries of Plainfield – and not one inch over the line – does not allow for the selection or election of the most qualified candidate. Revising the Plainfield residency requirement for Town Treasurer will allow for the selection or election of the most qualified individual.

Therefore, we hereby petition the Selectboard to warn the following questions for the annual meeting on March 5, 2024:

1. Shall the Town of Plainfield, empowered by 17 V.S.A § 2646a, authorize the Selectboard to allow Plainfield’s municipal Treasurer to be residents of the State of Vermont, but not exclusively the town of Plainfield ?

#### **5. Petition To Change Town Charter**

We, the undersigned voters of the Town of Plainfield, believe that certain amendments to the Plainfield municipal charter will allow the Town to operate with greater accountability. Revising the Plainfield residency requirement for Town Clerk & Town Treasurer will allow for the selection, or election, of the most qualified individual. In addition the town should be allowed the choice of appointing officials when allowed by Vermont State law.

Therefore, we hereby petition the Selectboard to follow the procedures set forth in 17 V.S.A. § 2645 to have the following article placed on the warning at the annual meeting on March 5, 2024:

1. Shall the Town of Plainfield amend 24 App. V.S.A. ch. 131, § 402 ( c) of the Town Charter striking “All officers shall be elected by Australian ballot” with “ Australian Ballot method shall be used when electing town officers” (c) ~~All officers shall be elected by Australian Ballot.~~ **Australian Ballot method shall be used when electing town officers.**
2. Shall the Town of Plainfield amend 24 App. V.S.A. ch. 131, § 402 (d) of the Town charter to remove “makes residence in another town”: (d) When an elected or appointed officer resigns, ~~makes residence in another town,~~ or dies or becomes incapacitated, the office shall become vacant and the Selectboard shall appoint an eligible person to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting. The person elected at the annual meeting shall serve until the predecessor's term expires. Incapacity shall include the failure of a Selectboard member to attend 50 percent of the meetings of the Board in any calendar year.
3. Shall the Town of Plainfield add subsection (e) to 24 App. V.S.A. ch. 131, § 402 to read as follows: **(e) Elected officials need not be residents or legally qualified voters of the Town of Plainfield, unless specified by Vermont State Law.**