

Information for Non-Voters

Stow Town Meeting

This document has been prepared to assist non-voters who attend a Stow town meeting. Like voters, all non-voters must check in with the Checkers in the gymnasium or cafeteria if you plan to attend any Stow town meeting session.

1. All those registered to vote in Stow are herein termed "voters"; all other adult visitors or children of registered voters are termed "non-voters". If you are in doubt about your status, the checkers will determine it during the check-in process.
2. You are invited by the Moderator to attend a Stow town meeting as a non-voter. Initially, all non-voters will be seated outside of the auditorium, unless you fall into one of the categories listed below. If space is available in the auditorium after voters are seated, once the meeting is in progress the Moderator will normally allow non-voters to enter the auditorium.
3. Non-voters are not eligible to vote or directly participate in debate. Non-voters may be admitted to address the meeting (make presentations, answer questions) with the approval of the voters. Please note that Town Meeting is a legislative meeting of the town and not an "open meeting".
4. If you are a member of the press and are a non-voter, you have the option of sitting in a designated "press" section located on the left side of the auditorium in the front row. You must identify yourself as a reporter by display of credentials if requested to do so by the Moderator. Photography or video recording during the meeting must be approved by the Moderator. Taking images of voters is never allowed during any vote or count.
5. If you are a non-voter town employee, school district employee, or member of a regional school committee, and your presence has been requested by the board or official to whom you report, or you are otherwise authorized by the Moderator, you may be seated in the auditorium prior to the start of the meeting. You should always notify the Moderator or Town Clerk that you are attending and that you are available to speak on issues related to your department.
6. If you are a non-voter and are not in one of the categories above, and you wish to address town meeting and/or be seated in the auditorium prior to the start of a town meeting session, you must provide the Moderator with a written request, properly signed, stating your name and address. If you wish to address Town Meeting, list the article(s) on which you wish to speak. Further,
 - a. If you are present on your own behalf because of some interest in one or more articles - for example you own property in an area of proposed rezoning - this interest should be stated in the request so that the town meeting will know why you wish to be admitted. In such a case you should sign the request.
 - b. If you are appearing at the request of a voter, e.g., to provide expertise on a motion that will be before the meeting, then the circumstances making it worthwhile for the town meeting to admit you should be briefly described. The sponsoring voter should also sign the request.
7. Non-voters are admitted pursuant to 5, 6a or 6b by a majority vote of the meeting. If you are so admitted, you may participate in making a presentation, and asking and answering questions, but not vote or otherwise directly participate in debate.
8. Questions should be addressed to the Moderator before being asked or answered by a non-voter.

David E. Walrath
Moderator, Town of Stow

Non-Voter Request to Address Town Meeting

Article Number (s) _____

Reason to request approval to address the meeting:

Stow Property Owner/Town Department Sponsor _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ Phone (eve) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Non-Voter Name _____

Company/Town Department Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ Phone (eve) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

NOTE: Checker, please deliver to the Moderator prior to the start of the Town Meeting session

Moderator _____ Date _____ Time _____