



TOWN OF NEWPORT - **VOTING SESSION** OF TOWN MEETING POSTPONEMENT

In accordance with NH RSA 669:1-a, I am exercising my authority as Town Moderator to POSTPONE the Voting Session of the Newport Town Meeting from June 9, 2020 to June 23, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. at Newport Opera House located at Main Street in Newport, N.H.

Dear Newport Residents:

In light of the COVID 19 pandemic, the state of emergency declared by the Governor and Emergency Order #16 prohibiting gatherings of 10 or more people, and in consultation with other town officials, I have determined that the potential for transmission of COVID-19 may expose Town Meeting participants and observers to unacceptable risk at the Town Meeting Deliberative Session and Ballot Voting sessions.

Deliberative Session: Given this situation, I am exercising my authority as Town Moderator under RSA 40:4 to POSTPONE the Deliberative Session of the Newport Town Meeting from April 7, 2020 to June 9th, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Newport Common located at 1 North Main Street, Newport, NH 03773.

State law requires that I officially make this decision between 2-48 hours prior to the scheduled date and time of the Deliberative Session, and only permits me to postpone the Deliberative Session for a maximum of 72 hours at a time. Therefore, to satisfy that requirement, you will see new notices in this location periodically regarding the postponement of the Deliberative Session, 72 hours at a time, with the intent of ultimately holding the Deliberative Session on June 9th, 2020. We apologize in advance if that seems confusing, but state law did not contemplate the kind of lengthy risk we are presently facing.

Ballot Voting: This emergency situation will also require the May 12, 2020 second session (Ballot Voting) to be postponed. Therefore, I am also using my statutory authority as moderator to POSTPONE the ballot voting portion of the Newport Town Meeting until July 14th, 2020. State law requires that I officially make this decision every two weeks until the actual voting session, so you will periodically see new notices in this location of this aspect of the postponement.

These are extraordinary steps and we do not take them lightly. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in these times. We are in close contact with State health officials, the Governor's Office, and the Attorney General and will continue to update residents as we learn more. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 863-3582 and 520-7038 (e-mail: biddy.irwin@gmail.com), or Town Manager Hunter Rieseberg at 863-1877, with any questions or concerns regarding these decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Virginia O'Brien Irwin".

Virginia O'Brien Irwin, Moderator

Posted: June 8, 2020