

BUDGET VALIDATION REFERENDUM (BVR)

This year voters of Freeport will have the opportunity to vote on the school budget.

This Budget Validation referendum or BVR process comes as a result of newly passed legislation.

BVR is a multi step process. In Freeport, a municipality with a Town Charter, the School Committee recommended a budget to the Town Council. This took place on May 6. The Council, as the legislative body, will vote to approve a total budget amount. This vote is scheduled for Saturday, May 31.

That approved budget will go to the voters for a yes or no vote on Tuesday, June 10. Polls will be open at Freeport High School from 7:00AM to 8:00PM. The sample ballot is attached. If you are not able to get to the polls absentee ballots are available through the Town Clerk.

A “yes” vote will indicate approval of the budget.

A “no” vote will force the entire budget to be sent back to the School Committee for revision and then to the Town Council for approval before being brought back once again to the voters.

More information about BVR follows this message below.

Please refer to the budget documents posted on this site for more information about the budget, and as always, if you have questions please call or e-mail so we can answer them.

What it is: “Double approval” process for the school budget

School budgets will now be adopted through a multi-step process.

Because Freeport is a Municipality with a Charter

Step One: Total budget amount is presented for action at a budget meeting. After approval at a budget meeting a referendum vote is held on the question of whether to approve or ratify the action of the prior budget meeting. Both steps must be repeated until a referendum vote is successful.

Budget Articles – The warrant presented to the budget meeting for approval.

Budget Meeting – The Council meeting at which the Council approves the budget.

Validation Referendum – Must be held on or before the 10th day (not on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday) following the budget meeting.

- School Committee must provide printed information to be displayed at polling places to assist voters in voting.
- Total amounts proposed by the School Committee for each cost center summary budget article (11).
- Amount approved at the regional school unit budget meeting (Town Council meeting).
- Summary of total expenditures

And as applicable:

A statement that the amount approved at the school unit budget meeting includes locally raised funds over and above the RSU's Essential Programs and Services (EPS) amount.

Referendum Question (to the voters)

See Sample

What BVR does: Allows voters to ultimately approve the amount of the school budget proposed by the School Committee and approved by the Town Council.