

BSFD Annual Meeting/Voting Process Modernization Workshop | November & December 2025

Inventory of previously suggested improvements

Last updated - 1/21/2026

Existing Process	Suggested Change (Source of suggestion) Recommendation from the Public or former By-Law Committee	Community Feedback	Charter Change Required?	Bylaw Change Required?	Comments
Nominating Committee	Candidates submit letter of interest 30 days prior to election (Public)	Yes	No	No	
	Meet and Greet with perspective candidates including zoom (Public)	Yes	No	No	
	Eliminate nominations from the floor (Public)	Yes	No	No	
	Election Meeting Committee-work with clerk and district manager to schedule meeting (Bylaw committee)	Role of NC to receive letter of interest and facilitate meet & greet		Article II, S2	
Tax Assessors (3)	Additional Tax Assessors (Public)	Not needed - use volunteers		Article III, S6	Tax Assessor needs to be paired with volunteer
Proxy Voting	Expand to include sealed mail in/drop off ballots to be opened on the day of election/arrival prior to election (Bylaw committee)		Yes, S2	Article I, S5	Must vote in person
	Eliminate proxy voting (Public)		Yes, S2	Article I, S5	
	Process for authenticating ballots/duplicates/notarizations (Public)		No	No	
Write-in Candidates	Require additional information for write-in candidates (Public)	No	No	No	
	Eliminate write in's (Public)	No	No	No	
Paper Ballots	Electronic Ballots/Voting Machines (Public)	Yes, voting machines	No	No	
	Paper Ballots for write-ins only (Public)	Yes	No	No	
Voter Registration List/Notice of Election	Discrepancies with Town of Narragansett List (Public)	Pre-registration	Yes, S2	Article I, S6	Tax Collector prepares list
	One Notice per household/electronic, paper, website, posted (Public and Bylaw committee)	Yes	No	Article I, S3a	Requires first class mail - 9 days prior
	Publication Notice in local paper (Public and Bylaw committee)	Yes	Yes, S3	Article I, S3	Requires PROJO and local
Council Member -Term	Council Member Term Limits two-3 year terms then 1 yr ineligibility, Chair maximum of 2 years (Bylaw committee)	Yes	No	No	
	Vacancy within 6 months of election-next highest vote getter (By-law committee)	Yes	No	Article IV, S1	Filled by council

	Vacancy appointed by the council (Bylaw committee)	Yes	No	Article IV, S1	Filled by council
Other elected Officials - Term	Extend to two year term (Public).	Yes - see comments for vacancy	No	No	Vacancies will be appointed until the next election. Winning candidate then begins the 2-year term from that point.
Organizational Meeting	Held immediately following annual meeting (Bylaw committee)	Yes - see comments	No	Article II, S4	As soon as practical after voting results are certified. The Clerk will preside and once chair is elected, the
Annual Meeting	In person-present for entire meeting (Public)	Yes	Yes, S2	Article I, S4	In person or by proxy
	No voting until end of annual meeting (Public)	No	No	Article I, S4	In person or by proxy
	Allow continuous voting throughout the day (Public)	Yes - See comments	No	Article I, S4	Time: since there are no nominations from the floor, if people want to show up just to vote during the prescribed time (ex 2-hour window), and their choice is not to listen to the annual meeting. The Board of Elections will not say all day to help facilitate the electronic voting. Format: Think about more of a "trade show" format where we have tables of focus/topics (finance, treasurer, clerk, council etc.) where people can go to their area of interest. This would not require a by-law change
Council Member Absences (6 Meetings in a 12 month period - <i>meeting types not specified</i>)	Reduce to 4 absences total or 2 consecutive absences (Bylaw committee)	Table - see comments	No	Article III, S10	Table this until more research can be done on how the Town of Narragansett operationalizes their recall position.