

## ARTICLE IX

### INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

**Section 1. Petition for Enactment of Ordinances.** After consultation with municipal officials, the registered voters of the Town may at any time petition over their personal signatures for the enactment of any proposed lawful ordinance. Said petition shall be issued by the Town Clerk to include the complete text of the proposed ordinance, shall be signed by not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the registered voters of the Town and must be filed with the Town Clerk within one hundred twenty (120) days from issue.

The Council shall call a public hearing to be held within thirty (30) days from the date of the filing of said petition with the Town Clerk. The Council shall submit the proposed ordinance to a referendum vote at the next regular election at least thirty (30) days following the public hearing, unless prior to the call for said referendum said ordinance is enacted by the Council. Said ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after the certification of said referendum, provided a majority of those voting thereon shall have voted in the affirmative.

Any such proposed ordinance shall be examined by the Town attorney before being submitted to a referendum. The Town Attorney is authorized to correct the form of such proposed ordinance for the purpose of avoiding repetitions, illegalities and unconstitutional provisions, and to assure accuracy, clearness and precision of wording, but the attorney shall not materially change its meaning and effect.

**Section 2. Petition for Overrule of Action of Council.** All ordinances, resolutions or orders, except those making appointments or removals or regulating exclusively the internal procedure of the Council, shall be subject to overrule by a citizen referendum as follows:

After the adoption of an ordinance, resolution or vote by the Council, the voters may file a petition requesting that such ordinance, resolution or order be put to a referendum vote. Such petition shall be issued by the Town Clerk and be signed by not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the registered voters of the Town and filed with the Town clerk within thirty (30) days of the Council's action.

The Council shall call a public hearing to be held within thirty (30) days from the date of the filing of such petition with the Town Clerk, and shall submit the ordinance, resolution or order to a referendum vote at the next regular election at least thirty (30) days after the public hearing.

The said ordinance, resolution, or order shall not be enacted until it has received an affirmative vote of the majority of the voters voting on said question.

**Section 3. Form of Ballot.** The form of ballot for the proposed ordinance, resolution or vote shall be substantially as follows:

"Shall the proposed ordinance (resolution or vote), a copy of which is printed herein or attached hereto, be adopted?"

The voter shall indicate "yes" or "no" on their ballot, in the manner instructed on the ballot.

**Section 4 - Council not to Reenact or Reject.** The Council shall not reenact ordinances, orders, or resolutions rejected by voters at referendum elections for a period of at least one (1) year. The Council shall not modify or abolish ordinances adopted by voters at initiative elections for a period of at least one (1) year.