

Citizens Group Forms to Explain Tiverton Charter Change Proposal

Nancy Driggs, former co-chair of the Financial Town Meeting Changes Advisory Committee, writes a letter to the editor to inform the public of the new group, Voters for the FTR.

September 20, 2011

Tiverton's upcoming special election Nov. 8 offers an exciting prospect for all registered Tiverton voters. For the first time voters can vote to replace the current Financial Town Meeting process with an all-day Financial Town Referendum (FTR).

With an all-day referendum the voter will know the ballot questions and debate the proposed budgets two weeks before the FTR at the Financial Town Hearing. A voter will be able to submit his/her own budget proposal, with just 50 signatures, if the voter is not satisfied with Budget Committee, School Committee, Town Council, or other Petition Elector proposals. The voter will be able to vote on the budget of his/her choice in just 10 minutes, in the privacy of a voting booth. Absentee ballots will be available if a voter is unable to vote in person on voting day. A voter will no longer have to choose between a town meeting and family time or other commitments on a Saturday.

I co-chaired the committee which proposed the FTR because I was so pleased with the increase in participation in the creation of and in voting for the town budget it affords a Tiverton voter. The FTR truly empowers every Tiverton voter to determine Tiverton's priorities and budgets. The FTR finally gives all Tiverton voters an equal voice and the ability to have an informed, fair vote on the tax levy that so affects all of our lives.

There are a lot of myths, misinformation and lies, about the benefits of an FTR, about the FTR process and how that process unfolds and works. Voters for the FTR, a nonpartisan citizens group supporting the FTR has established a website to inform, answer questions, and dispel these myths and misinformation.

Please see www.TivertonFTR.org for a thorough explanation of the FTR, and to educate yourself about this new opportunity for you for increased democracy and participation in the important budgetary process for our town.

The FTR is what is right for Tiverton today.

Nancy Driggs

Tiverton

Voters For The FTR