



Town Meeting Participation Survey

Purpose: We want to ensure every voice in our community is heard. This short survey helps us understand what prevents you from attending town meetings and what changes would make it easier for you to participate. It takes less than 5 minutes to complete.

1. General Participation

- **How often do you attend Annual / Special Town meetings?**
 - Regularly (at least two a year)
 - Occasionally (at least one a year)
 - Rarely (not even once a year)
 - Never or more than 2 years ago

2. Primary Barriers to Attendance

- **What are the main reasons you do not attend town meetings? (Select all that apply)**
 - **Scheduling conflicts:** Work hours, family responsibilities, or children's bedtime routines.
 - **Lack of awareness:** I do not know when or where the meetings take place.
 - **Information gaps:** I do not understand the agenda items or how they impact me.
 - **Logistical issues:** Lack of transportation, parking difficulties, or lack of childcare.
 - **Meeting length:** The meetings last too long or are too unpredictable.
 - **Comfort & inclusion:** I feel intimidated, unwelcome, or that my voice isn't heard.
 - **Lack of interest:** The topics discussed rarely interest or affect me.
 - Other (please specify): _____

3. Communication & Awareness

- **How do you currently find out about town news and events? (Select all that apply)**
 - Town website
 - Local newspaper
 - Social media
 - Word of mouth (friends, neighbors)
 - Physical flyers at local businesses or town hall
 - I rarely or never receive information about town meetings

4. Meeting Preferences & Potential Solutions

- **Which of the following changes would make you MORE likely to attend? (Select all that apply)**
 - **Better scheduling:** Meetings held on Saturday mornings.
 - **On-site support:** Free childcare services or simplified parking.

- **Shorter meetings:** Stricter time limits on discussions and agenda items.
- **Simplified summaries:** Plain-language guides explaining the agenda items before the meeting.
- **Anonymous voting:** Using digital clickers or secret ballots rather than hand-raising.

5. Voting Methods

- **Are you in support of employing clickers at Town Meetings to capture votes?**
 - Yes, definitely
 - Maybe, but I need more information
 - No, definitely not.
- **Would you prefer to test clickers at a Town Meeting before considering purchase?**
 - Yes, please
 - No, thank you
 - Doesn't matter
- **What information is important to you in considering the purchase/use of clickers?**

6. Demographics (Optional)

- **What is your age group?**
 - 18–24
 - 25–34
 - 35–54
 - 55–64
 - 65+
- **How long have you lived in the town?**
 - Less than 2 years
 - 2–5 years
 - 6–10 years
 - More than 10 years

7. Open Feedback

- **Please share any additional thoughts, comments, or ideas on how we can improve town meetings:**

Thank you for your valuable feedback!

Please return by email to: LVenezia@dalton-ma.gov or U.S. Postal mail:

Town of Dalton / Lori Venezia, Executive Assistant/ 462 Main Street / Dalton, MA 01226

Please return no later than September 30, 2026.