

Town Meeting Survey Preliminary Results Milford, MA

A Citizens for Milford Initiative Conducted by a Town Meeting Working Group Membership

Peter Scandone (Chairmen/CFM)
Steve Trettel (CFM)
Kim Smith (CFM)
Mike Noferi, Moderator (At Large)
William Buckley (Selectmen Designee)
Richard Heller (Precinct 1)
Jose Costa (Precinct 2)
Tom Harmon (Precinct 3)
Mike BonTempo (Precinct 4)
George Marino (Precinct 5)
Paul Malnati (Precinct 6)
Reno DeLuzio (Precinct 7)
Mike Visconti (Precinct 8)

Publication date: May 15, 2017

Survey data collection period: March 3-28, 2017

Distribution: by email (or postal mail for those who had not filed an email address with the Town Clerk's office) to all 229 elected Town Meeting Members
+ 19 at-large members.

Survey Type: Questionnaire administered by paper survey and online in the form of a web survey. The web survey and the paper survey were submitted anonymous to the survey company, Great Blue Research.

Response rate: 192 respondents (78%)

Milford, MA Town Meeting Survey - 2017

Preliminary Results

Data Submitted 03-MAR-17 through 28-MAR-17

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. What Precinct do you represent?

	Count	Percent
1	27	14.1
2	20	10.4
3	24	12.5
4	15	7.8
5	25	13.0
6	22	11.5
7	26	13.5
8	25	13.0
At large	8	4.2
Total	192	100.0

2. Approximately how long have you been a Town Meeting Member?

	Count	Percent
Less than 1 year	7	3.6
1 year to 5 years	56	29.2
6 years to 10 years	43	22.4
11 years to 20 years	38	19.8
Greater than 20 years	48	25.0
Total	192	100.0

3. Overall, how satisfied are you with the way the Town Meeting operates?

	Count	Percent
Very Satisfied	55	28.6
Somewhat Satisfied	98	51.0
Somewhat Dissatisfied	33	17.2
Very Dissatisfied	6	3.1
Total	192	100.0

Milford, MA Town Meeting Survey - 2017

Preliminary Results

6. Have you received a copy of “A GUIDE TO REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING” from the Town Clerk?

	Count	Percent
Yes	118	61.5
No	32	16.7
Don't know / unsure	42	21.9
Total	192	100.0

7. Would you like the Pledge of Allegiance recited at the beginning of each meeting?

	Count	Percent
Yes	147	76.6
No	23	12.0
Don't know / unsure	22	11.5
Total	192	100.0

8. Do you receive feedback from any of your precinct neighbors on how you should vote on one or more articles?

	Count	Percent
Yes	64	33.3
No	123	64.1
Don't know / unsure	5	2.6
Total	192	100.0

9. Would you prefer that Town Meeting be held on a Saturday?

	Count	Percent
Yes	21	10.9
No	158	82.3
Don't know / unsure	13	6.8
Total	192	100.0

Milford, MA Town Meeting Survey - 2017

Preliminary Results

10. Would you prefer that Town Meeting start at 7:00pm?

	Count	Percent
Yes	158	82.3
No	20	10.4
Don't know / unsure	14	7.3
Total	192	100.0

11. Do you believe a Town Meeting webpage should be developed where explanatory information for each article would be available for all Milford residents?

	Count	Percent
Yes	171	89.1
No	9	4.7
Don't know / unsure	12	6.3
Total	192	100.0

12. Do you favor grouping all STREET ACCEPTANCE ARTICLES in ONE ARTICLE with the provision that any one item may be removed to be considered separately?

	Count	Percent
Yes	138	71.9
No	39	20.3
Don't know / unsure	15	7.8
Total	192	100.0

13. Do you favor grouping all BUSINESS OPERATING ARTICLES into ONE ARTICLE with the provision that any one item may be removed to be considered separately? (Examples include - authorization for the Treasurer to borrow, authorization the Selectmen to take legal proceedings on behalf of the Town, authorizing departments the use of revolving accounts, etc.)

	Count	Percent
Yes	123	64.1
No	58	30.2
Don't know / unsure	11	5.7
Total	192	100.0

Milford, MA Town Meeting Survey - 2017 Preliminary Results

14. How often do you attend Town Meeting?

	Count	Percent
Always	133	69.3
Often	51	26.6
Sometimes	7	3.6
Rarely	1	.5
Total	192	100.0

15. How often do you leave Town Meeting early?

	Count	Percent
Always	2	1.0
Often	6	3.1
Sometimes	17	8.9
Rarely	38	19.8
Never	129	67.2
Total	192	100.0

16. What method would you prefer to receive/acquire information to prepare you for Town Meeting?

	Count	Percent
US Mail Only	89	46.4
Electronically via email	55	28.6
Download via the Town of Milford Website	11	5.7
Warrant and Finance Committee report by US Mail and supplements via email	37	19.3
Total	192	100.0

Milford, MA Town Meeting Survey - 2017

Preliminary Results

17. How well do you understand the following Town Meeting Parliamentary Procedure?

How to amend a motion

	Count	Percent
Very Knowledgeable	100	52.1
Somewhat Knowledgeable	73	38.0
Not at all	19	9.9
Total	192	100.0

18. How well do you understand the following Town Meeting Parliamentary Procedure?

How/when to move the question

	Count	Percent
Very Knowledgeable	109	56.8
Somewhat Knowledgeable	65	33.9
Not at all	18	9.4
Total	192	100.0

19. How well do you understand the following Town Meeting Parliamentary Procedure?

When to rise for a point of order

	Count	Percent
Very Knowledgeable	91	47.4
Somewhat Knowledgeable	75	39.1
Not at all	26	13.5
Total	192	100.0

Milford, MA Town Meeting Survey - 2017

Preliminary Results

20. How well do you understand the following Town Meeting Parliamentary Procedure?

How/when to move for reconsideration

	Count	Percent
Very Knowledgeable	72	37.5
Somewhat Knowledgeable	85	44.3
Not at all	35	18.2
Total	192	100.0

21. How well do you understand the following Town Meeting Parliamentary Procedure?

The difference between an article and a motion:

	Count	Percent
Very Knowledgeable	137	71.4
Somewhat Knowledgeable	44	22.9
Not at all	11	5.7
Total	192	100.0

PRE-MEETING

22. In thinking about how you prepare for the Town Meeting, please indicate how satisfied you are with the following:

How early you are notified of the Town Meeting dates so that you may plan your schedule.

	Count	Percent
Very Satisfied	111	57.8
Somewhat Satisfied	52	27.1
Somewhat Dissatisfied	17	8.9
Very Dissatisfied	12	6.3
Total	192	100.0

Milford, MA Town Meeting Survey - 2017

Preliminary Results

23. In thinking about how you prepare for the Town Meeting, please indicate how satisfied you are with the following:

Materials you receive for the meeting arrive in sufficient time for you to review and prepare.

	Count	Percent
Very Satisfied	104	54.2
Somewhat Satisfied	58	30.2
Somewhat Dissatisfied	22	11.5
Very Dissatisfied	8	4.2
Total	192	100.0

24. In thinking about how you prepare for the Town Meeting, please indicate how satisfied you are with the following:

Finance Committee Materials you receive are comprehensive and informative.

	Count	Percent
Very Satisfied	91	47.4
Somewhat Satisfied	67	34.9
Somewhat Dissatisfied	23	12.0
Very Dissatisfied	8	4.2
Don't know/unsure	3	1.6
Total	192	100.0

26. How often do you attend (or watch on Milford TV) any meeting(s) or hearing(s) of the following in preparation for Town Meeting?

Board of Selectmen

	Count	Percent
Very often	30	15.6
Often	32	16.7
Sometimes	66	34.4
Seldom	38	19.8
Never	26	13.5
Total	192	100.0

Milford, MA Town Meeting Survey - 2017

Preliminary Results

27. How often do you attend (or watch on Milford TV) any meeting(s) or hearing(s) of the following in preparation for Town Meeting?

Finance Committee

	Count	Percent
Very often	15	7.8
Often	21	10.9
Sometimes	48	25.0
Seldom	44	22.9
Never	64	33.3
Total	192	100.0

28. How often do you attend (or watch on Milford TV) any meeting(s) or hearing(s) of the following in preparation for Town Meeting?

Planning Board

	Count	Percent
Very often	10	5.2
Often	13	6.8
Sometimes	38	19.8
Seldom	62	32.3
Never	69	35.9
Total	192	100.0

29. How often do you attend (or watch on Milford TV) any meeting(s) or hearing(s) of the following in preparation for Town Meeting?

School Committee

	Count	Percent
Very often	7	3.6
Often	19	9.9
Sometimes	35	18.2
Seldom	59	30.7
Never	72	37.5
Total	192	100.0

Milford, MA Town Meeting Survey - 2017

Preliminary Results

30. How often do you attend (or watch on Milford TV) any meeting(s) or hearing(s) of the following in preparation for Town Meeting?

Personnel Board

	Count	Percent
Very often	3	1.6
Often	3	1.6
Sometimes	18	9.4
Seldom	48	25.0
Never	120	62.5
Total	192	100.0

31. In addition to the Finance Committee Report, would you like to receive reports from the School Committee, Planning Board and Personnel Board on Warrant Articles they have sponsored PRIOR to the meeting?

	Count	Percent
Yes	130	67.7
No	48	25.0
No opinion	14	7.3
Total	192	100.0

32. Do you favor financial information be summarized in graphic form in addition to the numbers charts and it be provided PRIOR to Town Meeting?:

	Count	Percent
Yes	145	75.5
No	25	13.0
No opinion	22	11.5
Total	192	100.0

Milford, MA Town Meeting Survey - 2017

Preliminary Results

33. Do you favor a map showing the location of the street being considered for acceptance and the areas to be re-zoned and these be provided PRIOR to Town Meeting?:

	Count	Percent
Yes	152	79.2
No	26	13.5
No opinion	14	7.3
Total	192	100.0

PRE-MEETING

34. How satisfied are you with the clarity of the information in the following report presentation at Town Meeting?

Finance Committee (Beginning of the meeting)

	Count	Percent
Very Satisfied	95	49.5
Somewhat Satisfied	78	40.6
Somewhat Dissatisfied	14	7.3
Very Dissatisfied	5	2.6
Total	192	100.0

35. How satisfied are you with the clarity of the information in the following report presentation at Town Meeting?

Planning Board (For each article sponsored)

	Count	Percent
Very Satisfied	56	29.2
Somewhat Satisfied	88	45.8
Somewhat Dissatisfied	31	16.1
Very Dissatisfied	17	8.9
Total	192	100.0

Milford, MA Town Meeting Survey - 2017

Preliminary Results

36. How satisfied are you with the clarity of the information in the following report presentation at Town Meeting?

Personnel Board (For each article sponsored)

	Count	Percent
Very Satisfied	51	26.6
Somewhat Satisfied	87	45.3
Somewhat Dissatisfied	30	15.6
Very Dissatisfied	24	12.5
Total	192	100.0

37. In thinking about the most recent Town Meetings, please indicate how satisfied you are with the following:

The meeting begins promptly at the designated time

	Count	Percent
Very Satisfied	166	86.5
Somewhat Satisfied	23	12.0
Somewhat Dissatisfied	2	1.0
Very Dissatisfied	1	.5
Total	192	100.0

38. In thinking about the most recent Town Meetings, please indicate how satisfied you are with the following:

The meeting is run in an organized fashion

	Count	Percent
Very Satisfied	142	74.0
Somewhat Satisfied	44	22.9
Somewhat Dissatisfied	6	3.1
Total	192	100.0

Milford, MA Town Meeting Survey - 2017

Preliminary Results

39. In thinking about the most recent Town Meetings, please indicate how satisfied you are with the following:

The quality of the audio system

	Count	Percent
Very Satisfied	58	30.2
Somewhat Satisfied	83	43.2
Somewhat Dissatisfied	40	20.8
Very Dissatisfied	11	5.7
Total	192	100.0

40. In thinking about the most recent Town Meetings, please indicate how satisfied you are with the following:

The quality of the visual presentations

	Count	Percent
Very Satisfied	32	16.7
Somewhat Satisfied	84	43.8
Somewhat Dissatisfied	51	26.6
Very Dissatisfied	25	13.0
Total	192	100.0

41. In thinking about the most recent Town Meetings, please indicate how satisfied you are with the following:

The voting process (standing to vote, voice votes, etc)

	Count	Percent
Very Satisfied	115	59.9
Somewhat Satisfied	49	25.5
Somewhat Dissatisfied	11	5.7
Very Dissatisfied	17	8.9
Total	192	100.0

Milford, MA Town Meeting Survey - 2017

Preliminary Results

42. In thinking about the most recent Town Meetings, please indicate how satisfied you are with the following:

The process to make amendments to motions at Town Meeting

	Count	Percent
Very Satisfied	81	42.2
Somewhat Satisfied	79	41.1
Somewhat Dissatisfied	29	15.1
Very Dissatisfied	3	1.6
Total	192	100.0

43. In thinking about the most recent Town Meetings, please indicate how satisfied you are with the following:

The way in which the Town Budget is presented, discussed and approved

	Count	Percent
Very Satisfied	88	45.8
Somewhat Satisfied	66	34.4
Somewhat Dissatisfied	24	12.5
Very Dissatisfied	14	7.3
Total	192	100.0

44. In thinking about the most recent Town Meetings, please indicate how satisfied you are with the following:

The way in which Zoning and Land Articles are presented, discussed and approved

	Count	Percent
Very Satisfied	61	31.8
Somewhat Satisfied	78	40.6
Somewhat Dissatisfied	36	18.8
Very Dissatisfied	17	8.9
Total	192	100.0

46. Please rate the level of frequency for the following town meeting participation

Milford, MA Town Meeting Survey - 2017 Preliminary Results

characteristic:

I come prepared for every meeting to vote on all articles presented

	Count	Percent
Always	99	51.6
Frequently	74	38.5
Sometimes	15	7.8
Rarely	3	1.6
Never	1	.5
Total	192	100.0

47. Please rate the level of frequency for the following town meeting participation characteristic:

I feel comfortable participating and expressing my views

	Count	Percent
Always	76	39.6
Frequently	52	27.1
Sometimes	33	17.2
Rarely	22	11.5
Never	9	4.7
Total	192	100.0

48. Please rate the level of frequency for the following town meeting participation characteristic:

I feel comfortable expressing an opposing or minority view at Town Meeting

	Count	Percent
Always	73	38.0
Frequently	41	21.4
Sometimes	38	19.8
Rarely	26	13.5
Never	14	7.3
Total	192	100.0

49. Please rate the level of frequency for the following town meeting participation

Milford, MA Town Meeting Survey - 2017 Preliminary Results

characteristics:

I feel Town Meeting Members are respectful and listen to others' comments

	Count	Percent
Always	42	21.9
Frequently	77	40.1
Sometimes	62	32.3
Rarely	10	5.2
Never	1	.5
Total	192	100.0

51. How often have you spoken at Town Meeting in support or opposition to an article?

	Count	Percent
Every Meeting	2	1.0
Most Meetings	16	8.3
Some Meetings	47	24.5
Rarely	63	32.8
Never	64	33.3
Total	192	100.0

53. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement regarding Town Meeting:

Meetings are too long.

	Count	Percent
Strongly Agree	44	22.9
Somewhat Agree	92	47.9
Somewhat Disagree	26	13.5
Strongly Disagree	27	14.1
Don't know/unsure	3	1.6
Total	192	100.0

Milford, MA Town Meeting Survey - 2017

Preliminary Results

54. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement regarding Town Meeting:

An individual's speaking time in response to a presented motion should be regulated per article

	Count	Percent
Strongly Agree	92	47.9
Somewhat Agree	49	25.5
Somewhat Disagree	17	8.9
Strongly Disagree	32	16.7
Don't know/unsure	2	1.0
Total	192	100.0

55. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement regarding Town Meeting:

Electronic voting should be investigated for use at Town Meeting

	Count	Percent
Strongly Agree	69	35.9
Somewhat Agree	38	19.8
Somewhat Disagree	26	13.5
Strongly Disagree	47	24.5
Don't know/unsure	12	6.3
Total	192	100.0