



TOWN OF WESTWOOD
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Dear Mr. Alan Reiss,

As you requested this letter is an expression of the Town of Westwood's interest in consideration of the incorporation of an E-Voting system for Town Meetings.

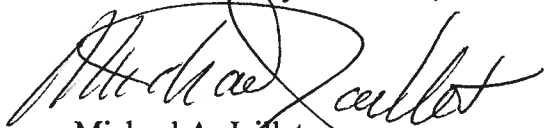
Westwood has become aware of the possibility of introducing new technology into Town Meeting voting that we believe would increase the accuracy, efficiency and privacy of town meeting votes and in particular, standing counted votes. We have explored a couple of different firms that provides such technology through either rentals or purchase. Since Westwood, like Wayland, is an Open Town Meeting, we have found that the rental approach would require us to rent as many as 2,000 units in order to be sure that we meet the demand for a large turnout, however rare that is. It is our opinion that it would be more cost effective to find other communities to jointly purchase a set of instruments that could be shared. In addition, there are other elements including the antennas that provide wireless connection for the devices and scanners that would register each unit with an attending voter in order to ensure that all units are returned at the end of each Town Meeting.

Like Wayland, we feel that the confidential voting that these such instruments provide would significantly improve the general perception as people are able to vote their conscience and, as a result, would have a positive effect on voter turnout. In a sense, this new technology could result in Town Meeting actually achieving the myth that it is the purest form of democracy.

As you know, most of this technology and software has not been specifically developed for the New England Town Meeting format, we believe, as you do, that a joint effort on the part of several New England Communities, might encourage one or more of these providers to refine a software and instruments that specifically address and further refine the particular needs of a Town Meeting.

Westwood is encouraged that there are other communities like Wayland that are giving serious consideration to the introduction of new technology that can bring our Town Meeting legislative process into the 21st century.

Best of Luck in your efforts,



Michael A. Jaillet
Town Administrator