

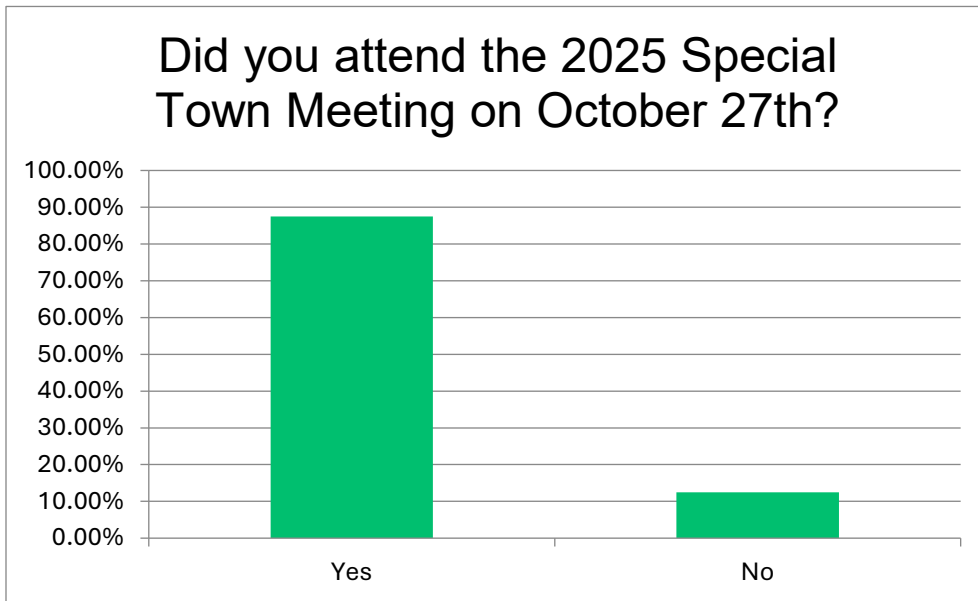
# TOWN MODERATOR

## Results of Survey after 27 Oct 2025 Special Town Meeting.

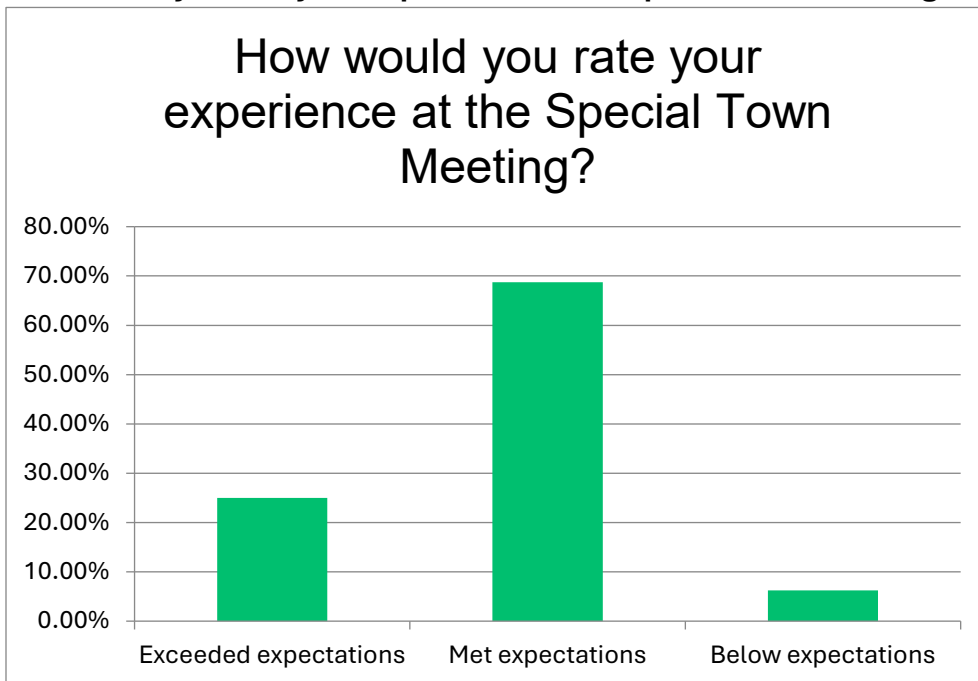
Summary: The below survey results are very similar to a previous survey two years ago. What makes this Survey more useful were the comments made in questions 3 & 4. I have made comments in red on things we might do to improve. Thank you to all that responded.

Dick Downey, Moderator

### 1. Did you attend the 2025 Special Town Meeting on October 27th?



### 2. How would you rate your experience at the Special Town Meeting?



### 3. What do you think should be improved at a future Town Meeting?

RESPONSES	Moderator's Comments
"I think the employees deserve raises for what they do for us and the town"	N/A
"Improve the sound volume of the speakers from the floor microphones or have someone adjust the microphone to them. I could hardly hear more than 50% of them & my hearing is OK. My husband has hearing aids & he could hear very few of them."	Thanks for the feedback. The comment has been forwarded to WAVM who will try to make adjustments that improve the situation in the future. Also, I shall be more attentive to have people speak into the microphone.
"More soundproofing in the room. Bring in quilts, hang them along the wall. Anything to dampen the boominess."	Not sure what can be done along those lines due to fire regulations, but we will do our best to improve the sound situation.
"better announcements. I didn't find out about it until I coincidentally went to look up something on the town website. Can one sign up for email or text alerts?"	Our "Reverse 911" (know as Hyper-Reach) sends a notice to every published telephone number. One can get a text or email with the same notice information; however, one must sign up for a text or an email or both. To sign up: <a href="https://hyper-reach.com/mamaynardsignup.html">https://hyper-reach.com/mamaynardsignup.html</a> or Text; "Alert" to 978-307-8700 or Call: 978-307-8700 Unfortunately, it can send a calendar link.
"Sound. It was echoey at the back and there was occasional mic feedback."	We will be doing a review of our sound system. The hall has difficult acoustics, but we will try to improve the situation as best as we can.
"To hear in the back or in the gym when we've been in there. Also given that there wasn't anything super contentious, the Monday night worked this time, but would still love to see a weekend morning time slot."	As above, we will be looking onto how to improve the acoustics in the hall.  Based on this and previous surveys, it appears that the majority prefer weekday evenings. The feedback we get is that there are too many conflicts with other activities taking place on weekends. Nevertheless, we will be looking at more convenient times.
"Zoom access for elderly, disabled and ill"	This is a very difficult logistical problem that has not been approved by the state legislature for Open Town Meetings. During Covid, permission was granted to Representative Town Meeting with somewhat mixed result around advantages, disadvantages and security. Thus, Maynard is not allowed to do remote or hybrid meetings yet.
"Is there any way to make it a zoom for people who can't get here? Also maybe something joyful like a community art project people can contribute to at the town mtg"	Regarding Zoom, see above.  Regarding community projects, we are open to suggestions. Years ago, we had bake sales and other community events, but they seemed to have petered out.
"Hard to hear citizens who are asking questions"	See above regarding acoustics.

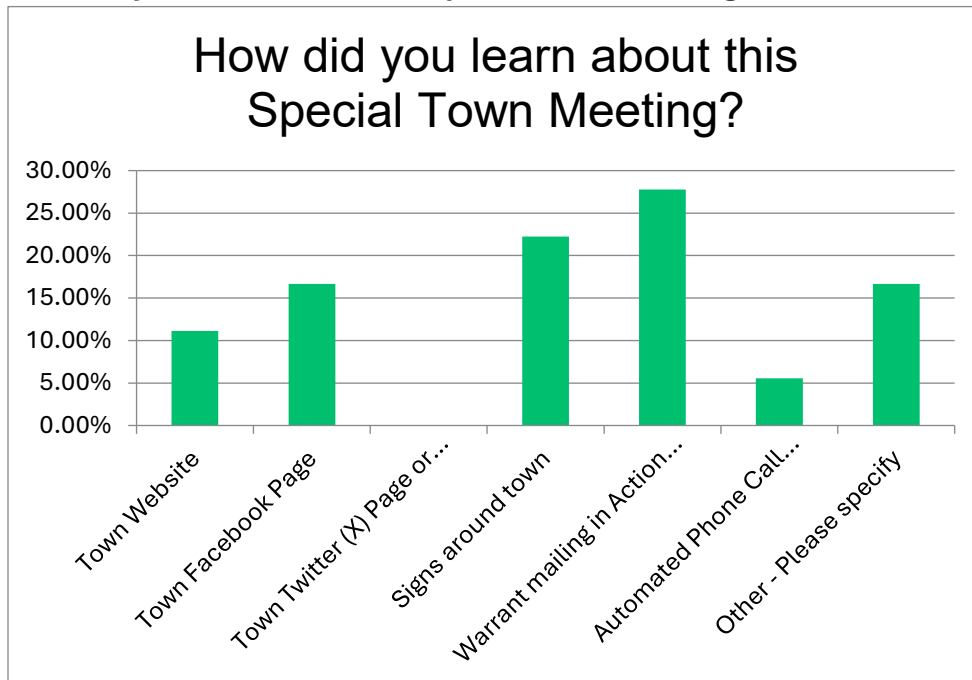
“Did not receive the warrant in the mail before the meeting”	We no longer send the warrant in the mail directly. We have made an arrangement with the Action Unlimited newsletter to print and publish the Warrant as an insert to the weekly newsletter several weeks in advance of each meeting.
“Mailings should be sent in advance with the meeting agenda as well as a calendar of future meetings so families can plan ahead.”	<p>Warrants are sent out several weeks in advance of each meeting to every household via Action Unlimited.</p> <p>A calendar for future meetings is easy for the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) which is always the first Monday in May. Special Town Meetings (STM) are only called when needed. We are looking adding the wording in the “Reverse 911” message to “remind folks to put the date in their calendars so that they plan around that date.</p>

#### 4. What did you like best about the Special Town Meeting?

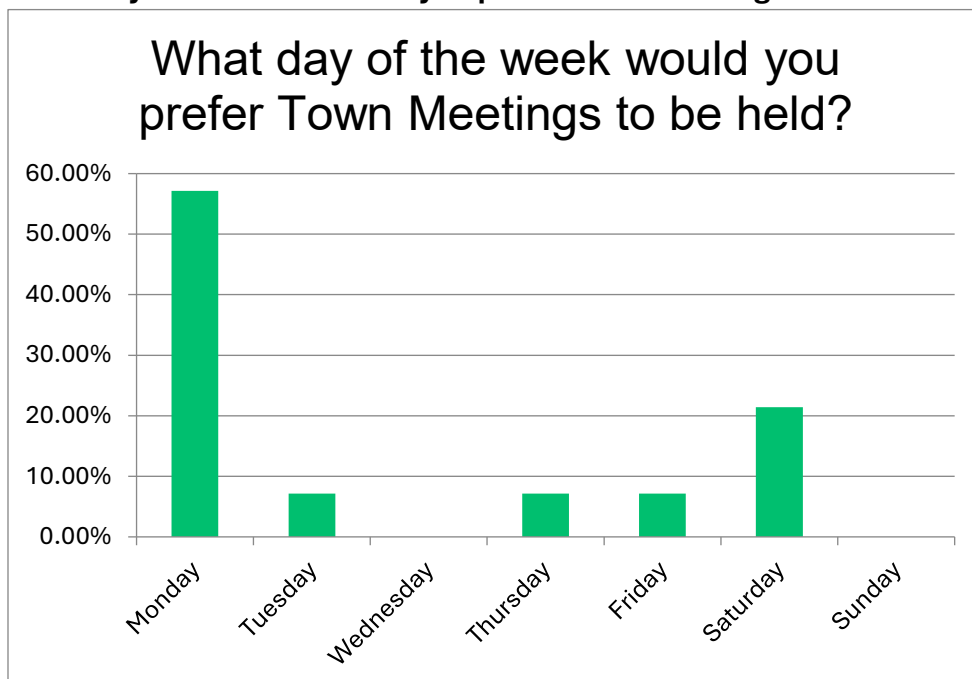
RESPONSES	Moderator’s Comments
“The planning”	
“Special Town Meeting is shorter than the Spring Town Meeting. I can't last until 11 pm. The man who hosted the Overlay Zoning question was good at explaining so a lay person could understand. Thank you to him!”	<p>Technically, all business should be completed for the year at the ATM. However, because the timing of some subjects get out of sync with ATM, STMs are called and seem to have become a staple. I have suggested to the Selectboard that we consider starting earlier and ending earlier. Also, they consider the STM in the fall permanent and balance the articles between the two. Or, if not possible, have the ATM over two nights.</p> <p>Regarding the overlay zoning, that person was Christopher Arsenault, the chair of the Planning Board. I shall pass along your compliments.</p>
“Moderator did a great job explaining things and being fair about time allowed to each person speaking.”	Thank you.
“Order, structure, civility, respect.”	I agree. Maynardites should be proud of themselves.
Good Q&A, solid committee answers”	I agree.
“I appreciated that all the presenters-mostly Select Board members--clearly stated their names. The signs at the public microphones reminding people to state their name and address were helpful.”	I shall pass along your compliments.
“Along with seeing other civic- minded residents, I like hearing well-presented and supported information, like Mr. Swanberg’s ability to answer questions about our water.”	I shall pass along your compliments.

"Number of articles wasn't overwhelming."	The number varies year-to-year. We were fortunate this year
"It was short."	Based on previous feedback, we have tried to streamline the procedures.
"I like participating in democracy!!! with my fellow Maynardians and people come up with important questions and thoughtful ideas"	You warm my heart. That is what we are hoping to achieve.
"Moderator is fantastic. Very clear and fair"	Thank you.

## 5. How did you learn about this Special Town Meeting?



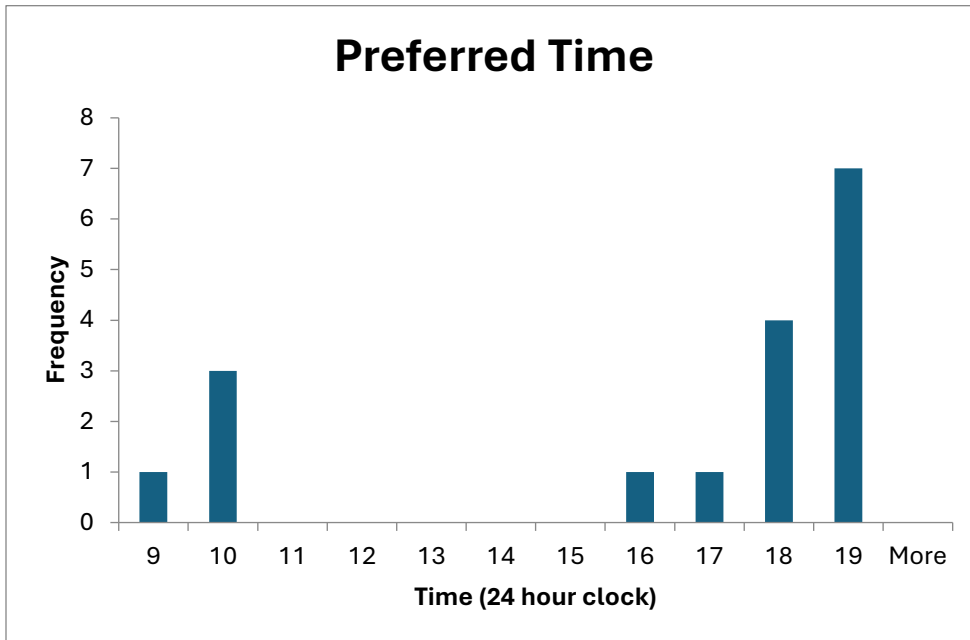
## 6. What day of the week would you prefer Town Meetings to be held?



Comments from Survey:

- a. "Might as well be Monday. If meeting can't finish, then there is always Tuesday."
- b. "Hate starting out the work week with a late ending meeting."
- c. "When more working people can attend, I think."
- d. "If Zoom was possible, I think a lot more people would be able to attend, with kids, school and work for most it's very difficult to get in person."

7. At what time of day would you prefer Town Meetings to be held?



Comments from Moderator:

- a. The early preference relates to the people that liked Saturdays.
- b. The later times are from all other choices.
- c. '19' translates to 7:00 PM and is our current start time.
- d. '16' translates to 4:00 PM and each step is an hour.