

## **Voting at Town Meeting**

The Town of Millis considers all matters before the Town in an Open Town Meeting format. All registered voters are invited to attend the Town Meeting, to participate in the debates held and to vote on the decisions made.

Actions taken at the Town Meeting are by vote of **registered voters** who have been checked into the Meeting by the Meeting Inspectors. Voters must be physically present in the Middle/High School Auditorium (or the overflow room, if necessary) at the time a vote is taken. Votes are taken on each motion, including all Warrant Articles.

### **Voice Vote**

Most votes are taken by voice. Once debate on a motion is complete, the Moderator will call for the vote, asking those in favor to vote “aye” and those opposed to vote “no”. The Moderator considers the voice votes expressed, decides which side prevails and announces the outcome. If the Moderator decides the voice vote is too close to call, a standing count will occur.

Alternatively, if seven voters rise to challenge the decision of the Moderator, a standing count vote will be conducted.

The Moderator can also announce when action on a motion will be by standing count without first holding a voice vote.

### **Standing Count**

**To guarantee accuracy, the Moderator will ask everyone to remain in the room until the standing count result is announced.**

To begin the standing count, the Moderator will ask all those in favor to **stand at their seats and remain standing** until the count is complete. Counting is done by designated tellers. They will have clipboards to record the count per row. When tabulation is completed, voters in favor will be asked to be seated. Then, the Moderator will ask those opposed to **stand at their seats and remain standing** until their votes are counted. After vote tabulation, voters will be asked to be seated. The final count of the vote will be completed by the Town Clerk and announced by the Moderator.

If seven voters rise to challenge the decision of the Moderator, a second standing count vote will be conducted.

### **Final Word**

In an Open Town Meeting, your vote counts. You must be present to vote. You are asked to follow the rules – and for standing counts to remain in place during the count. These procedures are designed to ensure the integrity and accuracy of all votes.