

History of SB2 in NH Towns and its consequences in voter participation

(data collected & organized by Garth Fletcher, Feb 17...23, 2009)

Schedule of considerations, adoptions & Rescissions [a]

++:Adopted II:Rescinded A:failed adoption R: failed revocation

Town	Schedule of considerations, adoptions & Rescissions [a]													SB2	Nov-08	Town Clerk data		
	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08		09	Regist. voters[b]	Delib. Session Attend[c]	as %
Carroll			++		R	R									1	658	85	13
Danbury (1)													++		1	751	45	6
Grafton	++				R	R		R							1	892	60	7
Bennington	++														1	1,101	30	3
Newfields									++	R	R				1	1,228	93	8
Alstead	++			R			R			R					1	1,427	50	4
Ashland				++											1	1,457	54	4
New Hampton				++		R									1	1,639	60	4
East Kingston (1)													++		1	1,653	111	7
Kensington		++													1	1,753	110	6
Hampton Falls									++						1	1,789	125	7
Bethlehem						++	R								1	1,895	50	3
Canaan	++					R	R								1	2,565	85	3
Sunapee		++						R							1	2,704	95	4
Winchester	++														1	2,978	75	3
Allenstown		++				R				R					1	3,024	100	3
Newton	++														1	3,080	65	2
Danville	++														1	3,109	41	1
Milton		++		R											1	3,209	89	3
Candia													++		1	3,347	138	4
Charlestown	++			R			R								1	3,425	75	2
Epsom		++		R		R		R							1	3,455	77	2
New Ipswich			++			R									1	3,551	47	1
Deerfield									A	++	R				1	3,599	90	3
Wakefield		++		R						R					1	3,648	80	2
Auburn (2)														++	1	3,824	60	2
New Boston				++			R								1	3,989	80	2
Kingston	++														1	4,025	75	2
North Hampton		++													1	4,134	120	3
Alton										++					1	4,135	60	1
Newport (1)													++		1	4,173	70	2
Littleton	++														1	4,246	100	2
Sandown	++														1	4,290	123	3
Rindge								A		++	R				1	4,794	65	1
Epping				A	A	++									1	4,797	80	2
Rye			++												1	4,848	120	2
Belmont (1)													++		1	4,929	30	1
Swanzey				A						++	R				1	4,996	45	1
Peterborough (2)										A	A		++		1	5,456	89	2
Wolfeboro	++				R										1	5,550	200	4
Atkinson	++														1	5,756	137	2
Seabrook	++														1	5,786	50	1
Litchfield			++												1	5,903	55	1
Weare	++														1	6,196	50	1
Hampstead	++														1	6,299	43	1
Gilford									++						1	6,309	78	1

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Plaistow	++														1	6,356	35	1
Barrington		++													1	6,357	100	2
Raymond							++								1	7,440	50	1
Newmarket	++							R							1	7,444	60	1
Conway	++														1	7,915	125	2
Amherst			++												1	8,849	167	2
Pelham			++												1	9,070	86	1
Hooksett	++														1	9,295	60	1
Windham				++											1	9,929	50	1
Exeter	++														1	10,716	127	1
Milford	++														1	10,894	83	1
Goffstown	++														1	12,832	120	1
Hampton	++														1	13,384	80	1
Hudson	++														1	16,305	72	0
Merrimack	++						R				R				1	19,442	207	1
Salem	++														1	20,654	60	0
Dorchester	++			II												270		
Enfield	++					II										3,148		
Orange	++			II												209		
Bow		A			A	A	A	A								6,278		
Brentwood														A		2,717		
Chester								A								3,455		
Chichester											A					1,979		
Deering											A					1,406		
Dublin					A	A	A									1,266		
Dunbarton														A		2,019		
Farmington								A								4,551		
Freedom					A											1,257		
Freemont											A	A				3,009		
Gilmanton								A	A	A						2,578		
Haverhill							A									2,758		
Henniker				A	A									A		3,276		
Hinsdale								A						A		2,754		
Hollis				A												5,754		
Lincoln								A								1,218		
Madison				A	A				A	A						1,808		
Marlborough				A	A											1,574		
Mont Vernon				A												1,896		
Moultonborough										A						4,051		
Northfield											A					3,517		
Pembroke										A	A					5,613		
Pittsfield					A											2,904		
Plymouth						A	A							A		6,681		
Sanbornton				A	A		A		A	A	A					2,447		
South Hampton											A					630		
Tamworth											A	A				2,114		

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Town	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	SB2	Nov-08	Town Clerk data	
																Regist. voters[b]	Delib. Session Attend[c]	as %
Temple										A	A					994		
Tilton										A	A					2,670		
Whitefield										A	A	A				1465		
MASON														??		969		
SB2 voted IN	30	8	6	4	0	2	1	1	2	4	1	4	2	0	65			
SB2 voted OUT	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3			
failed adoptions	0	1	0	8	9	3	5	8	8	14	10	0	0	0	66			
failed revocations	0	0	0	5	3	7	6	4	0	4	5	0	0	0	34			

SB2 TOWNS as of 2008.....	62		
Towns having considered SB2.....	96		
AVERAGE Size (# reg.voters) of SB2 Towns.....	5,472		
AVERAGE # of voters attending (including Town officials).....		83	
AVERAGE Participation in SB2 Deliberations, % of reg. voters			2.5

NOTES:

- (1) In Sec of State 2008 list of SB2 towns, 2007 adoption assumed
- (2) except towns known to have adopted SB2 last year
- (3) Londonderry was on SB2 Town list, but Town Clerk says only its school district is SB2.

SOURCES:

- [a] Adoption history: "SB2 Adoption and Rescission Votes: 1996-2006", NH Center for Public Policy Studies
 [b] Registered voters 2008: Source: <<http://www.sos.nh.gov/general2008/summarynames08.htm>>
 [c] interviews with NH Town Clerks, 2/19...23/2009. Phone # from list: <<http://www.sos.nh.gov/clerks.htm>>
 Asked for voter attendance at most recent Town, SB2 Deliberative Session. Most reporting 2009.

Comments & Analysis:

- 1) 59 of 62 SB2 towns are larger than Mason (969 registered voters)
- 2) 50 of 62 SB2 towns are larger than twice Mason's size
- 3) average size of SB2 towns is 5,472 registered voters, almost 6 (5.65) X Mason's size
- 4) the 3 towns which rescinded SB2 had 209, 270, and 3,148 registered voters
- 5) 131 attempts to adopt SB2 yielded 65 successes (50%) and 66 failures
- 6) 37 attempts to rescind SB2 yielded 3 successes (8%) and 34 failures
- 7) adoption of SB2 : 50% adopted in 1996, 71% had adopted by 1998, slower pace thereafter
- 8) of 96 towns which considered SB2, 63 have adopted it (66%)
- 9) of the 65 towns which adopted SB2, only 3 rescinded it (5%)
- 10) Average # voters attending = 83 including town officials.
 " in 12 smallest towns (< 2000 voters) = 73 including town officials.
- 11) voter participation in SB2 Deliberative Sessions averages 2.5% (1 out of 40 voters)
 " in 12 smallest towns (< 2000 voters) averages 6.3% (1 out of 16 voters)