

BALLOT EXPLANATORY TEXT

Approval this question will result in four areas of change to Newtown's annual budget approval process:

- 1 Splitting or "bifurcating" the budget into two questions (instead of the current single, combined question):
 - Board of Selectmen Budget: Shall the sum of \$___ be appropriated as the budget for the Board of Selectmen for the fiscal year? Yes or No?
 - Board of Education Budget: Shall the sum of \$___ be appropriated as the budget for the Board of Education for the fiscal year? Yes or No?
- 2 Results of each individual budget will be binding. If one budget fails and the other passes, only the failed budget will be resubmitted and voted on in successive referenda until it is passed by a majority of voters.
- 3 All budget votes will go to the citizens for approval at a public referendum. There will no longer be an option for a Town Meeting to resolve a budget after two failed referenda.
- 4 Budget votes will also include two non-binding advisory questions.
 - Is the proposed budget for the Board of Selectmen too low? Yes or No?
 - Is the proposed budget for the Board of Education too low? Yes or No?