

**Salem School Board
Salem School District (SAU 57)
38 Geremonty Drive
Salem, New Hampshire 03079**

July 20, 2022

Bernard W. Campbell, Chairman
Salem Charter Commission
c/o Town Office
33 Geremonty Drive
Salem, New Hampshire 03079

Re: Municipal Election Day

Dear Bernie:

At your request, at its meeting on July 19, 2022, the Salem School Board discussed its feelings relative to the possible moving of municipal election day. Currently, the Town of Salem and the Salem School District conduct the ballot sessions of their annual meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of March. Apparently, the Charter Commission has been discussing moving that date to either the 2nd Tuesday of April, or the 2nd Tuesday of May. You had asked for the School Board's comments on those alternatives.

Although no formal vote was taken, the clear consensus of the Board, and the strong recommendation of the administration, was to maintain the current election date in March. The primary reason for this opinion is that the "early" budget adoption date provides the maximum time and the earliest opportunity to recruit professional staff for the upcoming school year. Adoption of the annual budget by mid-March allows recruitment efforts to commence on or before the first of April, at a time when many professionals and rising college graduates are making choices as to employment opportunities for the following school year. The School Board felt this was a compelling reason to advocate for the maintenance of the March election date.

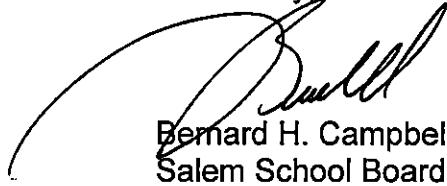
A secondary reason is somewhat related. The March adoption of the budget allows adequate time to solicit and receive bids/proposals for materials and/or services for the coming fiscal year, beginning July 1st. The later the election date, the less lead time the district has to accomplish these goals.

For the foregoing reasons, I suspect the Board would actively oppose moving to May. The 2nd Tuesday in April is likewise not our preference, and we would need compelling evidence of other benefits associated with such a move. None are apparent to us at this time.

Bernard W. Campbell, Chairman
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I trust this is responsive to your request for comments.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernard H. Campbell".

Bernard H. Campbell, Chairman
Salem School Board

BHC/jap

cc: Salem School Board
Maura Palmer, Superintendent

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