

Attachment to Board of Selectmen Minutes 09-13-2012: Letter from Mr. Robert Pomerleau

Speaking in favor of a November vote for the Rt 236 Sewer expansion project.

The proponents of the sewer project have had over 3 yrs to prepare the case for voters. It was deemed to be ready for a vote in June and defeated. Plans for a new vote began immediately after the June vote and you will have had 5 months to fine tune your message and to make your case.

We the opposition, are prepared to present our case and let the voters decide based on the information being provided. There is nothing new about this proposal, it's just about more explanation. Stop underestimating the intelligence of the voter and their capacity to understand the issues.

The availability of more information is desirable but does not outweigh the critical importance of a major voter participation in this controversial issue of major financial impact to the town of Eliot.

Broad political participation is a core feature of democracy and crucial for its durability.

No measure of democracy can be considered an accurate representation of its basic character without directly including participation as a significant component and what matters most is the number of citizens who actually vote.

Democratic participation enhances the moral legitimacy of the public will and with low turnout, policies will be biased, outcomes unfair, and in the end American democracy will represent the interests of the few direct beneficiaries and special interests over the broader concerns of the masses.

The sewer project has been a highly divisive issue in Eliot and demands the maximum number of possible voters in the November election to provide an acceptable, fairly arrived and moral conclusion for all citizens.

This is not a time for the petty politics of maneuvering the vote time to maximize the best possible outcome for the proponents of the sewer.

This is the time for the values of our democracy that have been fought for and have come at the great sacrifice of many men and women in our history. Do not take this lightly!