

Warrant

Article 19

What is it?

 This tobacco bylaw reads similar to our current regulations except for one major clause:

 “Identification: Each person selling or distributing tobacco products, as defined herein, shall verify the age of the purchaser by means of a valid government-issued photographic identification containing the bearer’s date of birth that the purchaser was born prior to 1/1/2004.

What does this mean?

 If this warrant article passes, you must be born **Before January 1st, 2004** to legally purchase **any tobacco products** in the town of Bellingham.

Are any other towns passing similar legislation?

 Several other towns across the state have recently adopted similar policies, including:

-  Belchertown
-  Brookline
-  Chelsea
-  Concord
-  Malden
-  Manchester
-  Melrose
-  Needham

-  Newton
-  Pelham
-  Reading
-  Somerville
-  Stoneham
-  Wakefield
-  Winchester

Important Clarifications

-  This is **NOT** a ban on the sale of tobacco products of any kind
-  This will **NOT** have an effect on the current population of smokers

What does my vote mean?

 A “Yes” majority vote will pass the article, enacting the bylaw and changing the age for tobacco sales to “Must be born before 1/1/04”.

 A “No” majority vote will result in the article being denied, and the age for tobacco sales will remain “Must be 21 years of age”.