

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”.