

# Withdrawal of a Municipality from a Regional School Unit

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The following document is a summary of  
Title 20-A, Statute §1466

Please be aware that this document is color coded. Please refer to this  
key to identify the participants of the process



PETITION



Municipality may not petition within 2 years if vote received 45% or less

**Start Petition**

10% of voters who participated in the last gubernatorial election must sign the petition

**Hold Hearings**

Municipal officers must hold a public hearing at least 10 days prior to special election

**Vote on Petition**

Withdrawal must be approved by secret ballot by majority vote  
\*See page 4 for specific language

NOTICE OF VOTE

**RECEIVE:**

- Withdrawal Explanation
- Affirmative Petition Vote

**DIRECT:**

Municipality to select a **Withdrawal Committee**

AGREEMENT

**WITHDRAWAL COMMITTEE**

- One Municipal Officer
- One Member of Gen. Public
- One member from group filing petition
- One member of the RSU Board from petitioning municipality

**PREPARATION**

Preparation of Withdrawal Agreement  
†See statute for more info

**ACCEPT & SIGN**

Municipality and RSU must accept and sign the withdrawal agreement before it is sent to the Commissioner

**RECEIVE AGREEMENT**

Within 60 Days:

- Grant Conditional Approval
- Recommend Changes

Conditional Approval

**NOTIFY:**

RSU and Municipality Officials of a public hearing

**RSU CHAIR**

Conduct Public Hearing

Changes Recommended

**DETERMINE:**

A date for which the voters of the petitioning municipality to vote upon the agreement.

**DRAFT:**

A written notice to be given to the town clerk 35 days before the set date.

**OFFICER'S:**

Issue a warrant for a special town meeting

**OFFICER'S:**

Hold a public hearing at least 10 days before the election.

**OFFICER'S:**

*\*\*See page 4 for specific language*

**POSTING**

Copies of the Agreement must be posted in the municipality in the same manner as specimen ballots

Municipality may not petition within 2 years if vote received 45% or less

**VOTE ON AGREEMENT**

Total number of votes cast at the municipal vote must equal or exceed 50% of the total number of votes in municipal for Governor

Municipality of a reformulated RSU may not petition within 2 years if vote received 60% or less

**DETERMINE:**

Town Clerk will determine the result of the vote and certify the amounts affirmative and negative to the Commissioner

**REQUEST**

Within 7 days of the results, the municipality can request a recount

**IMMEDIATELY**

Commissioner will immediately have the checklists and ballots collected and kept in the Commissioner's office

**RESOLVE**

Commissioner shall resolve any question with regard to disputed ballots

**EXECUTION**

When the agreement is executed the municipal officers shall notify the Commissioner

**FILE**

A certified record of the transaction must be filed with the Commissioner

End of Timeline

**COST OF ADVISORS**

**OFFICER'S:**

Expense of advisors is borne by the municipality

**INDEBTEDNESS**

**RSU CHAIR**

RSU Remains intact for purpose of securing and retiring debt.

**COMMITTEE RECALL**

**AUTHORIZE:**

Commissioner may authorize municipal officers to appoint new reps. to the withdrawal committee if they have failed to comply with requirements

## TRANSFER OF PROPERTY

### RSU:

May negotiate with withdrawal committee about equitable division of RSU property

## DISSOLUTION

### RSU:

If the RSU was composed of a single municipality the RSU is dissolved unless otherwise provided

## EXPANDED INFORMATION

\*The article must be in the following form:

"Article: Do you favor filing a petition for withdrawal with the board of directors of regional school unit (name of regional school unit) and with the Commissioner of Education, authorizing the withdrawal committee to expend \$ (insert amount) and authorizing the (municipal officers; i.e., selectpersons, town council, etc.) to issue notes in the name of the (name of the municipality) or otherwise pledge the credit of the (name of the municipality) in an amount not to exceed \$ (insert amount) for this purpose?

Yes No"

If regional school unit composed of a single municipality:

"Article: Do you favor filing a petition for withdrawal from and dissolution of regional school unit (name of regional school unit) with the board of directors of regional school unit (name of regional school unit) and with the Commissioner of Education, authorizing the withdrawal committee to expend \$ (insert amount) and authorizing the (municipal officers; i.e., selectpersons, town council, etc.) to issue notes in the name of the (name of the municipality) or otherwise pledge the credit of the (name of the municipality) in an amount not to exceed \$ (insert amount) for this purpose?

Yes No"

\*\*The article to be voted on must be in the following form:

"Article: Do you favor the withdrawal of the (name of municipality) from the regional school unit (name of regional school unit) subject to the terms and conditions of the withdrawal agreement dated (insert date)?

Yes No"

If regional school unit composed of a single municipality:

"Article: Do you favor the withdrawal of the (name of municipality) from the regional school unit (name of regional school unit) and the dissolution of the regional school unit (name of regional school unit) subject to the terms and conditions of the withdrawal agreement dated (insert date)?

Yes No"