

**BALLOT QUESTION TO REPEAL WINTER
OVERNIGHT PARKING BAN**

The question as it will appear on the ballot is as follows:

Shall the following measure which was proposed by an initiative petition addressed to the City Council take effect?

Repeal Section 19-174(b) of the Revised Ordinances of 2017, commonly known as the winter overnight parking ban, which states: “From December 1st through March 31st, it shall be unlawful for any vehicle, other than one acting in an emergency, to be parked on any street, way, highway, road, parkway, or private way dedicated or open to the use of the public for a period of time longer than one hour between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.”

YES

NO

City Solicitor’s Summary

The City of Newton will hold a regular City Election on November 4, 2025. Voters will have an opportunity at the Election to vote on a ballot question that would repeal the city-wide parking regulation set forth in Section 19-174(b) of the City Ordinances, commonly known as the “winter overnight parking ban.”

Under the winter overnight parking ban, it is unlawful to park a vehicle on any public street or private way for longer than one hour between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. from December 1st through March 31st. The regulation

does not apply to vehicles acting in an emergency. A violation is subject to a \$25.00 fine.

A “**YES**” vote on this question would repeal the winter overnight parking ban.

A “**NO**” vote on this question would leave the current winter overnight parking ban in place.

Argument in Favor of Repeal

Voting YES repeals the overnight parking ban, while keeping a parking ban during snow emergencies. The overnight ban (enacted 1936) negatively impacts many Newtonians, including those who live intergenerationally, or have overnight guests/health aides or tandem driveways. Regrettably, many gardens are paved over for driveway expansion. And it seemingly doesn’t snow much anymore!

Newton successfully “piloted” eliminating the parking ban in 2020 and 2021. Ordinances preventing abandoned vehicles and impeding traffic will remain. Traffic Council will create tailored parking regulations to protect neighborhoods and address parking concerns.

Now’s the time to eliminate the arbitrary 4-month 4-hour parking ban to allow for more effective and nuanced parking laws. Police, Fire, and DPW have had no objection to repealing the ban. Our grassroots campaign was founded by two NPS graduates, Jeremy Freudberg and Peter Klapes, who love Newton and are certain that voting YES will make Newton more equitable and sensible. www.repealparkingban.org/voterguide

Submitted by: Vote Yes to Repeal Winter Overnight Parking Ban

Argument Against Repeal

Voting NO keeps the overnight winter parking ban, ensures safe and accessible streets, reduces congestion and emissions, and limits parking by residents of large apartment complexes, college students and nonresidents. A “yes” vote would cause more cars on our streets, and unsafe conditions for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. “Yes” would compromise snow removal, winter driving, emergency and service vehicles, and force additional snow removal by residents. Developers should provide parking for new complexes and not rely on city streets for parking more cars than can fit on their property. Residents can already obtain waivers to park overnight in municipal lots and on the street in special cases. Longstanding and effective, the winter overnight parking ban supports safer, cleaner and quieter streets and should only be reconsidered when a careful comprehensive alternative plan is developed. A NO vote is a vote for public safety and responsible use of our community streets.

Submitted by: Keep Our Overnight Winter Parking Ban