



BLOG | Posted 03/07/2006 @ 10:32pm

Vermont Towns Vote to Impeach -- UPDATED

A single Vermont community's call for the impeachment of President Bush turned into a chorus Tuesday night, with town meetings across southern Vermont echoing the demand that Congress act to remove the president.

Voters in the town of Newfane, where the movement began, endorsed impeachment by a resounding margin. The paper ballot vote was 121-29 for a slightly amended version of the resolution that had been submitted by Dan DeWalt, an elected member of the town's select board. DeWalt's initial resolution declared:

Whereas George W. Bush has:

- 1. Misled the nation about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction;*
- 2. Misled the nation about ties between Iraq and Al Qaeda;*
- 3. Used these falsehoods to lead our nation into war unsupported by international law;*
- 4. Not told the truth about American policy with respect to the use of torture; and*
- 5. Has directed the government to engage in domestic spying, in direct contravention of U.S. law.*

Therefore, the voters of the town of Newfane ask that our representative to the U.S. House of Representatives file articles of impeachment to remove him from office.

The key amendment involved the addition of a call for the Vermont House and Senate to take up the issue. Though it is a little-known and even less-used power, state legislatures can officially forward impeachment resolutions to Congress.

The Newfane vote was expected. The surprise on Tuesday night came from neighboring communities where, inspired by Newfane's example, citizens demanded that their town meetings address the issue. At least four other Vermont towns -- Brookfield, Dummerston,

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THE ONLINE BEAT

JOHN NICHOLS



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Photo Credit: Michael Lorenzini

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Marlboro and Putney – voted for impeachment resolutions Tuesday night. Most of the additional resolutions passed by voice votes, but in Marlboro a show of hands produced a 60-10 vote for impeachment.

DeWalt, the Newfane official who started the process when he drafted an impeachment article and placed it on the official agenda for the annual town meeting, celebrated the grassroots revolt against George Bush and his administration as a healthy sign that democracy is still alive – at least in Vermont.

"In the U.S. presently there are only a few places where citizens can act in this fashion and have a say in our nation," explained DeWalt.

U.S. Representative Bernie Sanders, the Vermont independent who has been a fierce critic of the Bush administration, responded to the call from the towns with an acknowledgement that Bush "has been a disaster for our country, and a number of actions that he has taken may very well not have been legal." Yet, despite the fact that more than two dozen House members have cosponsored a resolution calling for the establishment of a select committee that would make recommendations regarding impeachment, Sanders said that Republican control of the House and Senate makes it "impractical to talk about impeachment" at this point.

Vermont Republicans and conservative commentators were dismissive, suggesting that town meetings ought to focus on local issues rather than attempts to check and balance executive excess.

But Newfane's DeWalt said impeachment was an appropriate item for town meeting consideration. While he noted that the resolution cited a number of issues, the select board member used the example of the continuing occupation of Iraq. "The war affects us here in Newfane," he said. "It affects us when our mothers and fathers and sons and daughters are sent off to war, and it affects us in our tax dollars to pay for that war."



COMMENTS

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am i really nuts, or is something funny going on here?

Posted by **1BBLEBLIBBLE** *03/07/2006 @ 11:28pm | [ignore this person](#)*

wow - har har - NEW POST...similar topic

NICHOLS - dont do this to me, man....har har

Posted by **1BBLEBLIBBLE** *03/07/2006 @ 11:30pm | [ignore this person](#)*

it would appear the good people of newfane are going to be confounded - apparently the congressional republicans are agreeing to pass a law that will a) authorize the spying bush is doing and b) of course retroactively forgive bush for felony crimes.

Posted by **ZERO** *03/08/2006 @ 12:03am | [ignore this person](#)*

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I don't know if this is the second shot fired from a small town in New England that was heard around the world, but, hey, it's fun to think about. If it starts cascading around the US, great; if not, let's enjoy the moment.

Posted by SEATTLESCRIBE 03/08/2006 @ 12:44am / [ignore this person](#)

Maybe I'll show my support for the good people of Newfane by spending some tourist dollars there this summer.

Posted by SEATTLESCRIBE 03/08/2006 @ 12:46am / [ignore this person](#)

<http://seattle.indymedia.org/en/2006/03/251975.shtml> So you hate corporate control of America

New additions in the comments

Posted by RESE 03/08/2006 @ 05:32am / [ignore this person](#)

<http://seattle.indymedia.org/en/2006/03/251975.shtml> So you hate corporate control of America [here](#) [seattle.indymedia.org]

Posted by RESE 03/08/2006 @ 05:34am / [ignore this person](#)

I've changed my mind....Impeach Bush.

Seriously, it just may be THE best way to quiet the liberal base of the DNC and make the Party more libertarian and centrist once and for all, when it blows up in their faces....and the Party bosses turn around and look at the sheepish faces of people like the folks in San Fran, Newfane, and Mr Nichols when 2008, which could HAVE BEEN watershed, turns into a disaster!

Posted by MASK 03/08/2006 @ 06:36am / [ignore this person](#)

again, anything that can derail these evil incompetants - huzzah! encouraging impeachment is the patriotic duty of every american citizen.

Posted by IBBLEBLIBBLE 03/08/2006 @ 08:22am / [ignore this person](#)

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OLDER << What, Then, From Newfane?