

GoVT Sanctuary Township Project FAQs

- 1) Q: What is this all about? A: These resolutions are a symbolic way for the people of Vermont to voice their frustrations with lawmakers who continue to target their Article 16 and 2nd amendment rights year after year despite our record of being the safest place in the country to live.

- 2) Q: Is this resolution legally binding? A: No, it is not. 24 v.s.a. 2295 prohibits individual municipalities in Vermont from regulating firearms and ammunition. Under Vermont's preemption law, commonly known as "Dillon's Rule" these resolutions are non-legally binding and purely symbolic. We acknowledge that it is the duty of the courts to determine the legitimacy of the law, however we also believe very strongly that Article 16 and the Second amendment preempt State and Federal gun laws respectively, hence the Marbury v Madison reference. We do not seek to create litigation, nor do we encourage anyone to break the law, rather we encourage this as a symbolic act of civil disobedience to help our voices be heard.

- 3) Q: Why ask the board to pass the resolution and not the voters? A: By having the select board pass this resolution it sends a message that the town recognizes the rights of its people as inherent. The right of self-defense is not granted by government nor subject to a popular vote. By adopting this resolution, the town acknowledges that Article 16 and the Second Amendment do not grant us the right to keep and bear arms, rather it FORBIDS government intervention in that right.

- 4) Q: How many other towns are doing this? A: Currently (as of 2/1/20) 7 Vermont towns have adopted resolutions and we are tracking 18 others with either select board or town meeting votes pending. Dozens more have reached out for more info.

- 5) Q: Do we have to do this by town meeting day? A: We're encouraging as many towns to get this passed by town meeting day as possible, but if a town misses it by that deadline, they can still pass it. Defense of our rights should be a year-round activity.