

## **TWA 25 - Citizen Petition: Ban of Plastic Bags by all Retail Businesses**

This Citizen Petition states, “To see if the Town will vote to ban the use of plastic bags by all retail businesses in town that sell products and bags them in plastic by January 1, 2021.” The intent is to determine if the voters will agree to ban plastic bags from being distributed by Raymond vendors.

**A YES vote means** that starting January 1, 2021, Raymond vendors may no longer provide plastic bags for their products, food, or goodwill.

**A NO vote** means that the current bagging process will continue.

### **Reasons why some voters might vote YES:**

- Plastic bags are made from non-renewable fossil fuels. (1)
- Concern for environmental impacts of plastic bags. (2)
- Plastic bags take years to degrade in landfills. (3)
- Landfills in NH are nearing capacity, and one is expected to close within 5 years. (4)

### **Reasons why some voters might vote NO:**

- Preference to keep the current bagging system.
- Prefer that this decision be made by the State Legislature so that plastic bag use is consistent across the State.
- Currently unenforceable by any NH town. (5)

### **References:**

1. <https://plastics.americanchemistry.com/How-Plastics-Are-Made/>
2. <https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/waste-pollution/plastic-bag-ban/environmental-impacts>
3. <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2007/06/do-plastic-bags-really-take-500-years-to-break-down-in-a-landfill.html>
4. “NH Department of Environmental Services predicts a limited shortfall in disposal capacity between 2025 and 2034, ranging between about 20,000 and 120,000 tons per year.” NHDES 2019 Biennial Solid Waste Report, page 9.
5. Town Council Keriann Roman, Deliberative Session 2/1/20.