

Get out and **VOTE** March 28 at Iber Holmes Gove Middle School

*Your Voting
Guide
for Local
Elections*

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RAYMOND

Voter Information

PROJECT

*“A well informed
voter has the greatest
freedom of choice.”*

~ Raymond VIP Bylaws

2023

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Raymond Voter Information Project (RVIP) is a grassroots, nonprofit organization; we are not a Town or School District committee, but a separate entity made up of unpaid citizen volunteers. We work to educate community members to vote with the greatest freedom of choice by providing details about local Warrant Articles. This guide is provided as a comprehensive, non-biased tool for Raymond voters to use during the 2023 Town and School District Election Cycle.

We strive to be objective and comprehensive. The RVIP neither supports nor opposes any political party, candidate, or Warrant Article. We provide tax information, but make no value judgment on it. Our mission, editorial policy, bylaws, and all previous issues of the Voter Guide may be found on our website: www.raymondvip.org.

Visit these valuable voter resources online:

The Town of Raymond Voter Information: tinyurl.com/3hrus22e

Raymond School District Voter Information: tinyurl.com/3b2y25h2

Raymond Community Television: tinyurl.com/mr42w7zp

State of NH Statutes (Revised Statutes Annotated or RSAs): tinyurl.com/na2swrhs

We offer our Gratitude to the many citizens, staff, and elected and appointed Town and School District officials who contributed information to this year's Guide. A special thanks to the staff of Seacoast Media Group who have been a huge part of our project for the last nine years. We wish them all the best as they close their doors in Portsmouth later this month. We thank Raymond Community Television for making video recordings of Town and School meetings available to the public, as well as introductions for the candidates and Candidates' Night.

You may contact us at info@raymondvip.org or PO Box 813, Raymond NH 03077. To speak to an Administrator of the Editorial Committee, call (603) 706-0538. **We value your feedback and always endeavor to improve.** Every year, new reporters and readers join our team, experience our method of analysis, and deepen their engagement in the election process. Sign up [NOW](#) to help with next year's guide!

Make a donation **TODAY** to help continue this project. We rely solely on donations and sponsorships – this guide would not exist without **YOU**. Donate online safely at www.raymondvip.org, or by mailing a check to the RVIP at PO Box 813, Raymond, NH 03077.

We thank you!

Sincerely,
Kathy Pouliot, President
Raymond Voter Information Project

*See you at the polls at Iber Holmes Gove Middle School.
Tuesday, March 28, 2023 7AM to 7PM*

Members of the Raymond Voter Information Project come from a broad range of careers and municipal experience, and have many personal viewpoints. However, within Raymond VIP, they are committed to neither support nor oppose any political party, candidate or warrant article and to focus on providing objective voter information. Raymond VIP is registered with the State of New Hampshire and with the Town of Raymond as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and a charitable trust. © 2023 Raymond Voter Information Project

SCHOOL WARRANT

School Article 1 – 2023 School District Candidates

The following Candidates' names are in the order that will appear on the ballot that is determined by a random selection process in accordance with RSA 656:5-a:

One School Board Member for 3 year term
Anthony Clements

One School Board Member for 1 year term
Steve Scarfo

School Article 2 – Operating Budget

This article will raise and appropriate \$28,691,058 for the School District Operating Budget, or, if the article fails, will raise \$28,384,855, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Raymond School District or by law. The amounts above do not include other money War-rant Articles on this year's ballot. If the Operating Budget fails and the Default Budget is in place, the School Board may revisit the Operating Budget and call one special meeting so voters can vote on the revision according to State statute. (1)

The proposed budget is an increase of \$1,535,414 (5.65%) over the current year's Operating Budget and is \$306,203 more than the Default Budget. The main increases relate to student Tuitions, Transportation, Curriculum Programs, Electricity & Oil and Food. Decreases in the budget include removal of the IHGMS World Language Teacher position and other reductions in Salaries.

The student enrollment as of October 1, 2022 is 1,171. There are currently 227 regular positions, not including Substitutes. There are 114 teachers and 74 support workers (including para-educators, custodians, food service workers, and LPNs). The 39 in the wage pool include admin, school nurses, information technology, and maintenance.

The estimated tax impact for the School Operating Budget is \$14.81 per thousand of valuation, or \$2,962 on a \$200,000 home. The estimated tax increase of the Operating Budget is an additional \$1.46 per thousand of valuation or \$292 on a \$200,000 home.

The estimated tax impact for the Default Budget is \$14.58 per thousand of valuation, or \$2,916 on a \$200,000 home. The estimated tax increase of the Default Budget is an additional \$1.23 per thousand or \$246 on a \$200,000 home.

A YES vote raises \$28,691,058 to fund the School District Operating Budget.

A NO vote raises \$28,384,855 to fund the School District Default Budget and gives the School Board the option of revising the Operating Budget and calling a special meeting for voter action.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To support the proposed School Operating Budget
- To agree with the staffing, curriculum and other changes proposed the School Operating Budget.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To support the School District's Default Budget
- To allow the School Board the option of revising the Operating Budget and calling a special meeting for voter action.

References:

1. RSA 40:13, X and XVI: tinyurl.com/59nb5mwr

School Article 3 – CBA with REA

This article will amend the 2022-2025 Collective Bargain Agreement (CBA) agreement reached between the Raymond School District and the Raymond Education Association (REA) to increase the current Substitute pay rate of \$26.25 to \$40 when a teacher covers a period instead of hiring a substitute. (1) The cost of \$23,695 (Year 1) was raised at the 2022 annual meeting so there is no additional tax impact. If passed, this article will appropriate that amount as well as raise and appropriate \$5,924 (Year 2). The estimated 2023 tax impact is \$0.004 per thousand of valuation, or \$.80 on a \$200,000 home.

A YES vote amends the 3-year contract for members of the REA to increase their substitute pay per block to from \$26.25 to \$40.

A NO vote means that when teachers substitute for a block their pay remains at \$26.25.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- Believe that increasing the rate teachers make when covering a period

will help make classroom coverage by REA members more attractive (1)

- Object to hiring a substitute for a full day when a teacher stepping in for one period may suffice.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Object to amending the current CBA
- Believe that the current pay rate is sufficient.

References:

1. Presentation made during the Budget Committee Public Hearing on 1/3/23, by Superintendent Terry Letherman and Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore: tinyurl.com/2w3mppn9

School Article 4 – Capital Reserve Funds for the Capital Improvement Plan

This article will raise \$453,750 and deposit these funds into three School Capital Reserve Funds (CRFs) to support the School District's 20-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). This plan projects the School District's needs out to 2042-2043. (1) The amount requested this year is an increase of \$41,250 as compared to last year's request. Estimated Tax increase is \$0.03 per thousand of valuation, or \$6.00 on a \$200,000 home.

The \$223,989 (increased from \$160,305 in 2022) for the School District Equipment, Facilities Maintenance and Replacement CRF (established in 2006) is intended for the replacement of the intercom system at Iber Holmes Gove Middle School (IHGMS) (\$140,389), a District work van (\$50,000) and to upgrade the media center flooring at IHGMS (\$33,600) (2) The current balance in this CRF is \$1,128,781.46. (3)

The \$191,290 (increased from \$150,000 in 2022) for the Technology CRF (established in 2001) is intended to replace the camera systems at Lamprey River Elementary School (LRES) and IHGMS (\$145,940), and to save for future projects (\$45,350). (2) The current balance in this CRF is \$420,635.79. (3)

The \$38,471 (decreased from \$102,195 in 2022) for the Food Service Equipment CRF (established in 2006) is intended to purchase a convection oven for Raymond High School (RHS) (\$13,000), to purchase an automatic meat slicer for RHS (\$5,816), and to save for future projects (\$19,655). (2) The current balance in this CRF is \$203,805.35. (3)

A YES vote raises \$453,750 to fund three School District CRFs.

A NO vote would not fund the identified CRFs in the School District CIP this year.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To address the stated replacements and upgrades at the schools (4)
- Consider these changes necessary
- To avoid spikes in the tax rate and interest on borrowed/bonded funds by saving gradually.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Disagree with the stated purposes for these funds
- Prefer using the CRF monies for other purposes
- Prefer to finance high cost items through other methods such as bonding or borrowing.

References:

1. Raymond School District Capital Improvement Plan Needs Assessment and Bond Needs Assessment. tinyurl.com/56tv5n7z
2. SAU presentation to Budget Committee 1/3/23, by Superintendent Terry Letherman and Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore. Raymond Community Television link tinyurl.com/2enwum88, power-point presentation link tinyurl.com/332mky5u
3. Email from Marjorie Whitmore, SAU 33 Business Administrator, to RVIP, sent 2/20/23.
4. Discussion at School Deliberative Session, 2/4/23: tinyurl.com/25jy7bmy

School Article 5 – Transfer of Surplus Funds

This article will allow the School Board to place up to \$400,000 from the year-end fund balance into the Equipment, Facilities Maintenance and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) established in 2006. (1) This is the same amount as last year's warrant article. The requested funds would be used to build up the CRF for projects such as safety and security upgrades, flooring upgrades, Lamprey River Elementary School septic replacement, and a new roof at Iber Holmes Gove Middle School. (2)(3) There is no new tax impact in 2023.

A YES vote will authorize the School District to transfer up to \$400,000 from the year-end fund balance into the CRF.

A **NO vote** will require that all the year-end surplus, other than any amount retained for a contingency fund as allowed by State law, must be returned to the taxpayers.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To save part of the year-end funds for future long-term projects defined by the Capital Improvement Plan
- To reduce the total amount of funds that may need to be raised through borrowed funds or taxation for future projects.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To return the year-end surplus to the taxpayers, other than any amount allowed by State law as a contingency fund
- Prefer to delay funding this CRF.

References:

1. SAU presentation to Budget Committee Public Hearing on January 3, 2023 by Superintendent Terry Letherman and Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore. tinyurl.com/2w3mppn9
2. Discussion at the July 13, 2022 School Board Meeting. tinyurl.com/387a6h8c
3. Per the project list specified in the Raymond School District Capital Improvement Plan Needs Assessment and Bond Needs Assessment document. tinyurl.com/2w3mppn9

School Article 6 – Lease to RCTV

This article, if passed, would grant the School District the authority to renew a 10-year lease for studio and operational space utilized by Raymond Community Television (RCTV), which broadcasts public Town and School Board meetings as well as producing community programming. (1) The lease amount will be \$1,800 for the first year, due January 2023, and will increase annually based on multiplying the prior year's amount by the most recent December-December percentage change in Consumer Price Index for MA/NH/ME/CT as shown in the Bureau of Labor statistics CPI Table 10.

RCTV is self-funding; all expenses, including this lease, are covered by franchise fees from local Comcast subscribers. The costs associated with this lease were determined by the District by factoring the cost of maintenance based on the square footage utilized by RCTV within the Raymond High School. There is no tax impact.

A **YES vote** would allow the School District to renew a 10-year lease with RCTV for office/broadcast space within the Raymond High School.

A **NO vote** would prevent the School District from renewing a lease with RCTV.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To support the continued use of School District facilities by RCTV
- To support the usage of franchise fees to rent this space rather than taxpayer dollars.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To discontinue the use of School District facilities by RCTV
- Preference that taxpayer dollars be used to rent this space.

References:

1. RCTV lease agreement with school district. tinyurl.com/ywft8du

TOWN WARRANT

Town Article 1 – 2023 Town Candidates

The following Candidates' names are in the order that will appear on the ballot that is determined by a random selection process in accordance with RSA 656:5-a:

SELECTMAN 3 YR TERM:

George H. Plante
Patricia "Tricia" Bridgeo
Chris "Turtle" Long
Rani Merryman

BUDGET COMMITTEE 1 YR TERM:

Lisa Bonnett

BUDGET COMMITTEE 3 YR TERM:

Jeffrey J. Roy

LIBRARY TRUSTEE 3 YR TERM:

Virginia Fernald
Sabrina Maltby

TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUNDS 3 YR TERM:

Kevin S. Woods

ETHICS COMMITTEE 3 YR TERM:

John O'Brien III

PLANNING BOARD 1 YR TERM:

David Rice

PLANNING BOARD 3 YR TERM:

Robert "Bob" McDonald
Jim McLeod

TOWN TREASURER 3 YR TERM:

Edward F. French

TOWN CLERK 3 YR TERM:

Alyssa Richard

Town Article 2 – Zoning Amendment-Sprinkler/Fire Alarm Systems

This article amends the Zoning Ordinance to clarify when sprinkler systems need to be installed for all new commercial and industrial buildings, multifamily residential dwellings of three or more units, and others. (1) New use additions or renovations to commercial or industrial properties needing Planning Board approval or those exceeding 50% improvement will require the entire structure to be brought into compliance with this ordinance before a building certificate of occupancy will be issued. Structures requiring installation of sprinkler systems also need fire alarm systems installed. Both sprinkler plans and fire alarm system design plans need to be submitted to and approved by the Raymond Fire Department fire inspector. Systems must meet the State of NH requirements. There is no tax impact.

A **YES vote** will amend the Zoning Ordinance to clarify when sprinkler and fire alarm systems need to be installed.

A **NO vote** will not amend the Zoning Ordinance with respect to sprinkler and fire alarm systems.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- Sprinklers and fire alarms save lives and minimize property damage
- Sprinklers can lower insurance costs.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Adds to cost for developer and/or homeowner, plus maintenance costs.

References:

1. Raymond Zoning Ordinance Article 8.3. tinyurl.com/mwkr9ttb

Town Article 3 – Zoning Amendment - Parking Lots Require Permit in Zone G

This article was presented to the Planning Board by the Conservation Commission. It was considered an oversight that parking lots were not included in uses requiring a Special Permit in the Groundwater Protection Overlay District, or "Zone G." (1) This article is designed to fill the gap in our defined protections. There is no tax impact.

A **YES vote** would add "Parking Lots" to the list of uses in Zone G that require a special permit.

A **NO vote** would continue to allow "Parking Lots" in Zone G without a special permit.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To require a special permit for parking lots in Zone G given their impervious surface runoff
- To protect Town resources by adding Parking Lots to uses allowed by special permit.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Consider that the impervious surface runoff from parking lots does not require additional oversight
- Consider that parking lots should be allowed in all Zones without a special permit.

References:

1. See Article 4 for definition of "Parking Lot"

Town Article 4 – Zoning Amendment - Definition of Parking Lot

This article is to codify the definition of “Parking Lot” in Raymond’s Zoning Ordinances. (1) It defines “Parking Lot” as a cleared area of land to allow customers, residents of multi-family dwellings, or the public to park motor vehicles atop asphalt, concrete, gravel, or other material. There is no tax impact.

A YES vote will add the proposed definition of “Parking Lot” to the Zoning Ordinance.

A NO vote will leave parking lots undefined

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To specify the definition of “Parking Lot” in the Raymond Zoning Ordinance.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Do not agree with the proposed definition

References:

- 2022 Raymond Zoning Ordinance. tinyurl.com/42r8xcf8

Town Article 5 – Zoning Amendment - Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

This article adds additional language to the Allowed Uses Table within the Raymond Zoning Ordinance regarding the permissible uses of Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations. (1) The intent of this language is to add guidelines for such uses where no guidelines currently exist. (2) Those guidelines are that EV charging stations would be allowed in any parking lot of at least six parking spaces but shall not replace any handicapped parking space. Additionally, all Direct Current (DC) stations would require approval by the Planning Board; Alternating Current (AC) stations may be approved by the Building Inspector. There is no tax impact.

A YES vote defines allowable use of EV Charging Stations within any of the Town of Raymond zoning districts.

A NO vote will not add language defining the permitted use of EV Charging Stations.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To define the allowable usage of EV Charging Stations for Zoning and Planning Boards
- To ensure local governance for EV Charging Stations.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Do not agree with the allowed uses defined for EV Charging Stations
- Do not agree that EV Charging Stations should be regulated locally, but default to State Regulations.

References:

- 2022 Zoning Ordinances, page 79 - Section 14.2 Notes to Allowed Use Table. tinyurl.com/4un94str
- Town Deliberative Session, 2/11/23 at timestamp 25:00. tinyurl.com/4wahyrt5

Town Article 6 – Zoning Amendment - Groundwater Conservation

This article adds to a list of uses or structures that are not allowed in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District defined in section 5.2.10 (1) (commonly referred to as “G” land): petroleum bulk plant or terminal; gasoline stations, outdoor storage of road salt/bulk deicing chemicals; commercial fertilizer storage (unless in a structure designed to prevent runoff or leaching and complies with standards of section 5.2.7. (2) The additions proposed were recommended in the 2009 Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission’s “Sourcewater Protection Plan,” funded by NH DES specifically for the Town of Raymond. The purpose of that report is stated: “A source water protection plan identifies all of the public water systems within a community, identifies contaminating land uses and threats to those systems, and suggests techniques to man-age and prevent the threats from contaminating the drinking water supply.” (3) In 2010, the Planning Board (in discussion with the Community Development Director) removed the currently proposed items from the recommended list of prohibited uses prior to moving it to warrant by a vote of 6-1. (4) The remaining list of recommendations that were moved to the ballot were passed by majority vote. (5) There is no tax impact.

A YES vote would prohibit the listed items in Zone G land.

A NO vote would continue to allow the listed items in Zone G land.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To enhance protections to the community’s groundwater and drinking water
- To enact the recommendations of the “Sourcewater Protection Plan” (3)
- To place high priority on protecting the Town’s groundwater/ drinking water supplies. (6)

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Prefer to receive the tax revenue derived from the allowed uses or structures
- Prefer to continue the use of or garner other benefits from the allowed uses or structures
- Disagree that the Town’s water resources are in need of further protection.

References:

- Raymond NH Zoning Ordinance 5.2.10, Prohibited Uses in Groundwater Protection District. tinyurl.com/42r8xcf8
- Raymond NH Zoning Ordinance 5.2.7, Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan. tinyurl.com/42r8xcf8
- 2009 Town of Raymond “Sourcewater Protection Plan,” page 36. tinyurl.com/mp5u6fyf
- Raymond Planning Board Minutes, 11/18/10.
- 2011 Annual report of the Town of Raymond, New Hampshire, Page 36. tinyurl.com/5eaffzjx
- University of NH citizen survey (2007) for the Raymond Master Plan, p. 343-364 (2009). tinyurl.com/ycx6h5s9

Town Article 7 – Zoning Amendment - Zone G Setbacks

This article seeks to amend the currently defined frontage and setback requirements within the Conservation District Zone G by increasing the minimum wetland setback from 25 feet to 75 feet. Raymond’s Conservation District was established “in the interest of protecting the public health, safety and general welfare by preserving the Town’s lakes, ponds, river systems, wetlands and important local water resources for the benefit of all Town residents ...” per the 2022 Raymond Zoning Ordinance Article 4.9. (1)

The new wetland setback of 75 feet would apply to any lot within the Conservation District seeking to add a new building or development. The increased setbacks would not apply to lots which already contain a building or residence utilizing a private drinking well or municipal water service, which meets Town code regulations and also contains a working septic system compliant with all Town code regulations as of the date which this Warrant Article is passed. There is no tax impact.

A YES vote will increase the wetland setback to 75 feet for any new building and development within the Conservation District Zone G.

A NO vote will not increase the wetland setbacks, retaining the existing 25 foot requirement for all lots within the Conservation District Zone G.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To support increased protection of wetlands that can impact the quality of the Town’s drinking water (2)
- To support the protection of drinking water as identified as a number two priority in the 2009 Master Plan UNH survey results for quality of life and future land use (3)
- To further protect fish and wildlife habitats, store floodwaters, and maintain surface water flow during dry periods. (4)

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To maintain the 25 foot wetland setback
- To explore other options to protect water sources before amending this zoning ordinance
- Do not support the language in the proposed amendment.

References:

- 2022 Raymond Zoning Ordinances. tinyurl.com/2p9dyxzj
- New Hampshire Lakes Management and Protection Program, RSA 483-A. tinyurl.com/3scyje45
- 2009 Master Plan UNH survey results for quality of life and future land use, section IV page 51. tinyurl.com/y6cdn8v7
- Wetland Protection and Restoration, US Environmental Protection Agency. tinyurl.com/2cj8sq8n

Town Article 8 - Zoning Amendment - EHOD Dimensional Requirements

This article changes the dimensional requirements within the Elderly Housing Overlay District (EHOD) in order to address a new NH state law, HB 1661, that applies the existing dimensional allowances for Elderly Housing to Workforce Housing. (1, 2) This zoning amendment requires that Elderly Housing be developed on a minimum of two acres, with minimum frontage of 200 feet and at least two parking spaces per unit. Additionally a one-bedroom unit must have at least 600 square feet of living space and a two-bedroom unit must have 900 square feet. The proposed changes apply only to developments not individual

houses. (3) There is no tax impact.

A YES vote will change the current overlay to reflect the dimensional information listed.

A NO vote will not change the current overlay dimensions.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To create a universal code by adjusting the dimensional requirements for EHOD, given that as of 7/1/23 the dimensions will also apply to WHOD.
- A yes vote is necessary to complement Article 9.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To maintain the current dimensional requirements for Elderly Housing
- Disagree with enlarging dimensional requirements for Elderly Housing.

References:

1. 2022 Raymond Zoning Ordinance. tinyurl.com/42r8xcf8
2. New Hampshire House Bill (HB) 1661. Summary of Changes Table. tinyurl.com/mstw3nbu
3. Planning Board Chair Brad Reed in email to Voter Guide Reporter 2/27/23.

Town Article 9 – Zoning Amendment - Add Workforce Housing Overlay District

This article adds a Workforce Housing Overlay District (WHOD) to our Zoning Regulations (1) in order to accommodate HB 1661 (2), a new State law that applies the dimensional allowances for Elderly Housing to Workforce Housing as of 7/1/23. There is no tax impact.

A YES vote will add the WHOD to Zoning in order to define the parameters of the district.

A NO vote will not add the WHOD.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To allow Raymond to create a WHOD and self-determine density, lot size, and other requirements
- To complement a yes vote on Article 8.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To oppose the creation of a WHOD.

References:

1. 2022 Raymond Zoning Ordinance. tinyurl.com/42r8xcf8
2. New Hampshire House Bill (HB) 1661, Summary of Changes Table. tinyurl.com/mstw3nbu

Town Article 10 – Water Tower Replacement Authorization to Finance via Bond, Notes and Grants

This article will raise and appropriate \$4,602,277 for the purpose of removing the existing Orchard Street and Route 156 water towers and designing and constructing a new, larger water tower adjacent to the site of the existing Route 156 water tower. These funds will also be used to upgrade water system infrastructure related to the new water tank and on Main Street to allow for increased flow. (1)

The Orchard Street water tower was constructed in 1893. It is the oldest water tower in New Hampshire. Since 2013, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) has been encouraging the Town to take this tower out of service and remove it from the site because of concerns for its structural integrity. Per the Town Manager, the Town may be fined by NH DES for non-compliance with NH DES recommendations. (1)

The capacity of the Orchard Street tower is 119,000 gallons and the capacity of the Route 156 water tower is 606,000 gallons for a combined total of 725,000 gallons. The new Route 156 water tower is currently planned to be 800,000 gallons. However, the size could change depending on the Town’s needs. (1)

Passage of this article will allow the Town to leverage \$1,102,227 already accepted from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and which has been earmarked by the Town to pay for water tower design and engineering. Additionally, this article would authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate notes or bonds in accordance with applicable State of New Hampshire municipal financing regulations and to accept grant money.

The Town has already been approved (pending final application completion) for a \$3,500,000 loan at an interest rate of 3.17% by the NH Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund (DWGTF). As part of the DWGTF loan pack-

age, \$875,000 in grant funds are guaranteed and designated to offset the loan’s principal balance, effectively reducing the amount financed by the Town to \$2,625,000 at 3.17% for the project.

The combination of the \$1,102,277 in ARPA funds, the loan of \$3,500,000 and principal offsetting grant money (\$875,000) covers the projected costs of the project.

The Town, however, as authorized under this article, could opt for alternative means of financing the amount needed for the project beyond the \$1,102,277 in ARPA funds already on-hand. Such funding could be in the form of bonds or notes. Such alternative financing would be in the amount of \$3,500,000.

In the event the Town elects to avail itself of the \$2,625,000 loan from the DWGTF, the first payment on that note would not be payable until 6 months following the completion of construction of the new water tank. Completion is projected for late 2024 or in 2025.

Should the Town pursue alternative financing, the initial payments due on such financing would depend on the terms of the financing vehicle selected.

After the grant funding is applied, 66% of the costs of the project will be paid by Water District customers, and the remaining 34% of the cost will come from the General Fund. (2)

There is no tax impact in 2023, however future tax impact is unknown.

A YES vote raises \$4,602,277 to fund dismantling and removal of two existing water towers and the construction of a new water tower and related infrastructure.

A NO vote effectively prevents the Town from moving forward with the project, using the earmarked ARPA funds, accepting the grant money, or accepting the pre-approved loan for the project.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To avoid potential fines from NH DES for not decommissioning the Orchard Street water tower
- To access the combination of Federal ARPA funds, a pre-approved loan, and grant funds and thus reduce the financial burden on the Town of improving its water system
- To improve infrastructure and increase water capacity to cover fire-fighting needs and short term growth in the Town
- To allow the cost to be shared between Water District users and citizens (2, 3)
- All residents benefit, given Town facilities and schools utilize the water system.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To avoid financing at least \$2,625,000 through notes or bonds
- The increased capacity resulting from the project may be consumed by near-term development projects (2)
- To encourage other avenues of funding, such as requiring developers to bear more of the costs for infrastructure (2)
- The Town may need to develop additional municipal water capacity in the next few years due to growth. (2)

References:

1. Per discussion at 1/10/23 Budget Committee Public Hearing on Warrant Article 10. tinyurl.com/3en2c6je
2. Per discussion at Town Deliberative Session, 2/11/23 at timestamp 1:15. tinyurl.com/4wahyrt5
3. Per Town warrant articles presentation packet handed out at Town Deliberative Session, 2/11/23.

Town Article 11 – Operating Budget

This article will raise and appropriate \$9,401,529 to fund the Operating Budget, or if the article fails, will raise \$9,046,175 to fund the Default Budget. (1) These amounts do not include other money warrant articles on this year’s ballot that may pass or fail. These amounts include the Water Department Budget, which is self-funded by water users, has no tax impact, and is not included in the information that follows. (2) If the Operating Budget fails, and the Default Budget is in place, the Town may revisit the Operating Budget and call one special meet-ing so that voters can vote on the Revision.

The proposed Town Operating Budget, without the Water Budget, is \$8,523,576, which is an increase of \$762,977 or 9.8% as compared to last year’s actual operating budget. The actual budget includes the 2023 proposed budget, plus any money warrant articles voted forward in March 2023 plus any obligations already contracted for.

Notable budget increases include Planning (hiring a full-time planner as voted by citizens in 2022), insurances (health and other), and fuel for Town vehicles.

The proposed Water Department Operating Budget is \$877,953, which is an increase of \$31,404 or 4% as compared to last year's budget. Water budget increases include health insurance and electricity. Water budget decreases include easement conveyance costs and debt payments.

The estimated tax impact of the proposed 2023 Operating Budget is \$4.319 per thousand of valuation or \$863.80 on a \$200,000 home. The estimated tax impact of the Default Operating Budget is \$4.056 per thousand of valuation or \$811.00 on a \$200,000 home.

A YES vote would raise and appropriate \$9,401,529 to fund the Town's Operating Budget and the Town's Water Budget.

A NO vote raises and appropriates \$9,046,175 to fund the Town's Default Budget and the Town's Water Budget.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To approve the proposed Town's Budget for 2023.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To approve the Town's Default Budget
- To allow the Town the option of revising its Operating Budget and calling a special meeting for voter action.

References:

- The Town's budget is defined by State laws RSA 40:13 IX (b), RSA 40:13 X and XVI. tinyurl.com/59nb5mwr
- The Water Rate Schedule can be found at Town Hall.

Town Article 12 – Collective Bargaining Agreement with Teamsters

This article asks voters to approve the cost items included in the three-year collective bargaining agreement (CBA) for salaries and benefits reached between the Town of Raymond and the 28 police and dispatch members of the Teamsters Union Local 633, and to approve funding the first year of the agreement. Included in this contract are 15 full-time and five part-time police officers, and six full-time and two part-time dispatchers. (1) Cost increases for 2023 (April 1-December 31, 2023): \$186,771; for 2024: \$40,812; for 2025 \$42,051; and for 2026 (January 1-March 31): \$20,290.

In addition to wage increases based on years of service in the proposed wage matrix, there are several new or modified benefits. A 4-hour call back time (guaranteeing a minimum of 4 hours of work pay) to an employee called back to work during off-duty time, having fulfilled all required duties during their normal shift. Other changes or modifications include: 11 paid holidays, incentive pay for desirable/specialized certifications, longevity pay after 10 years of service with the Department, \$1.00/hour allowance increase for the Field Training Officer (a certified officer who trains new police officers) and for the Communications Training Officer (a certified dispatcher who trains new dispatchers), 22% private detail pay increase, and 0.05% shift differential pay increase. (1) The estimated tax impact: \$0.137 per thousand of valuation or \$27.40 on a \$200,000 house.

A YES vote approves the wage and benefits increases and funds the first year of the contract.

A NO vote will not approve these increases and first year funding of the contract.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To provide a pay increase, and new or modified benefits, for each of the following three years for the police and dispatch members of the Teamsters Union Local 633.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Object to any or all of the agreed-upon terms of the CBA.

References:

- Raymond Police Chief Michael Labell, in emails to the Voter Guide Reporter, January 2023.

Town Article 13 – Collective Bargaining Agreement - Special Meeting

This article asks voters to allow the governing body, the Board of Selectmen (BOS), to call one special meeting without petitioning the Superior Court should Warrant Article 12 be defeated. (1) There is no tax impact.

A YES vote approves allowing the BOS to call a special meeting to reconsider Warrant Article 12, should it fail.

A NO vote does not permit the BOS to call a special meeting to address Warrant Article 12 should it fail, without petitioning the Superior Court.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To reconsider Warrant Article 12
- To avoid the need to petition the Superior Court to hold a special meeting.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Continued objections to any or all of the agreed upon terms of the agreement
- Unwillingness to expend the funds necessary to hold a special meeting.

References:

- NH RSA 31:5, III. tinyurl.com/rerxvz2

Town Article 14 – Two Full-Time Firefighters

This article will allow the Raymond Fire Department to create and fill two new, full-time firefighter positions. The projected cost for both hires is \$134,004, covering salary and benefits, prorated for the period of April 1-December 31, 2023. In subsequent years, those costs will be included in the Operating Budget.

Currently, there are five full-time firefighters, including the Chief, plus call (or volunteer) firefighters. With two new firefighters, three shifts can be created which will supplement the efforts of call firefighters, especially nights and week-ends, given the decline in volunteerism. Also, considering the Town's ongoing residential and business construction, additional firefighters may improve response time to emergencies. (1) The estimated tax impact is \$0.099 per thousand of valuation or \$19.80 on a \$200,000 home.

A YES vote will approve raising and appropriating \$134,004 to hire two full-time firefighters and put the future costs of said positions into future Operating Budgets.

A NO vote will maintain current staffing levels at the Fire Department.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To address potentially higher demand for emergency services given Town growth
- To have better emergency services coverage, especially for night and weekend demands.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Consider current services satisfactory
- Disagree with adding this expense to the Town Operating Budget.

References:

- Discussion at Budget Committee Public Hearing, 1/3/23. tinyurl.com/96pezccb

Town Article 15 – Youth Sports/Special Events Coordinator

This article will create and fund a new, part-time position (25 hr/wk) in the Recreation Department for a Youth Sports / Special Events Coordinator. The cost, including salary and part-time benefits is \$31,839, prorated for the period 4/1/23-12/31/23. Employees working 20 hours or more per week are offered health/dental benefits prorated according to the time worked. (1) If approved, this cost will be included in the Town Operating Budget in 2024. Duties for this Coordinator will include a variety of administrative tasks including attending organizational meetings, scheduling events, and otherwise supporting the Recreation Department's four youth sports groups. Fees will be paid by sports leagues to offset some of the cost. Additionally, the new hire will coordinate the Town's July 4th event which, in the past, was coordinated by local volunteer groups, and, in recent years, has fallen to Town employees. (2)

Currently, the Recreation Department has two full-time and one part-time employees with seasonal hires for summer programs. The estimated tax impact is \$0.023 per thousand of valuation or \$4.60 on a \$200,000 home.

A YES vote will create and fund a new Youth Sports/Special Events Coordinator position, and will add the associated staffing costs to future Operating Budgets.

A NO vote will maintain the current staffing level in the Recreation Department.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To increase personnel coverage for youth sports programs, July 4th community event, and as needed
- To bolster youth sports programs due to decreased volunteerism.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To maintain current staffing levels
- Prefer not to add the future cost of that new employee to the Operating Budget.

References:

- Julie Jenks, Raymond Finance Director, Budget Committee Public Hearing, 1/3/23. tinyurl.com/96pezccb
- Michelle Weaver, Raymond Recreation Director, Budget Committee Meeting at timestamp 0:27, 12/20/22. tinyurl.com/3f66j7p2

Town Article 16 - Capital Improvements

This article will add \$390,390 to a number of existing Capital Reserve Funds (CRFs). (1) The money will be used for the items listed in the warrant article as follows: General Government Buildings Maintenance & Improvements \$122,004; Highway Department Vehicle Repair & Replacement \$42,426; Highway Department Heavy Equipment \$47,741; Police Department & Dispatch Equipment, Vehicle, & Facilities \$10,980; Fire Department Equipment and Vehicle \$106,090; Town Office Technology Fund \$50,000; Parks Equipment & Facilities \$11,139.

The estimated tax impact is \$0.287 per thousand of valuation, or \$57.40 on a \$200,000 house.

A **YES vote** would fund the listed CRFs with money raised in taxes.

A **NO vote** provides no new funding for 2023 for the listed CRFs.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To deposit funds in these CRFs to support the Town's previously-identified long-range needs
- Agree with adding the specific amounts listed to the existing funds. (2)

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Do not agree that taxpayer dollars should be used to supplement the CRFs listed in the warrant article
- Consider the current balances in these funds are sufficient. (2)

References:

1. RSA 35 Capital Reserve Funds. tinyurl.com/4nr23xpp
2. Trustees of the Trust Funds November 2022 Report, pages 11-13. tinyurl.com/228npfhp

Town Article 17 – Appropriate to the Capital Reserve Fund

This article will allow moving \$202,952 from the Unassigned Fund Balance into the Bridge and Culvert Capital Reserve Fund (CRF). This CRF was created to hold funds that can be saved year to year and used as needed when Raymond Bridges and Culverts need to be rehabilitated. This is a transfer of unanticipated revenue from a special one-time allocation from the NH Department of Transportation that can only be used on the maintenance, construction, or reconstruction of municipally owned bridges, because the state reported record surplus of funds and intended to provide one-time property tax relief through additional direct payments to towns. (1) There is no new tax impact.

A **YES vote** authorizes the Town to deposit \$202,952 into the Bridge and Culverts CRF and to spend this amount on Town-owned bridges and culverts.

A **NO vote** means that the Town will not be able to withdraw and use this money.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To have additional money to rehabilitate the Town's bridges at no new cost to taxpayers.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To reject funds from the State for bridges.

References:

1. 2022 Legislative Update from NH Municipal Association, State Aid to Municipalities, NH Senate Bill 401. tinyurl.com/2p8kn2cr

Town Article 18 – Town Vehicle and Equipment Revitalization Capital Reserve Fund

Article 18 seeks to raise and appropriate additional resources to fund Town Vehicles and Equipment through its Revitalization Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) by moving \$257,000 from the Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB) to support the forty-year strategic Capital Investment initiative. (1) The Town Vehicle and Equipment Revitalization CRF was established in 2018 by vote of Town meeting. The Town's UFB is currently at 14.6% of regular general fund operating revenues, which is within the range the state recommends for municipalities. (2) When the UFB is higher than planned, excess funds can be used for Capital Improvement Projects with a warrant article like this or can be used to offset property taxes. (3) There is no new tax impact.

A **YES vote** would move money from the UFB to this CRF for town vehicles and equipment.

A **NO vote** would not move the funds.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To expedite savings for prioritized purchases and avoid borrowing as much when needed
- To use surplus money for specific capital improvements at a future date.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Consider the existing CRFs (as managed by the Capital Improvement Planning process) satisfactory for funding town vehicles and equipment
- Prefer excess funds in the UFB be used to offset property taxes
- Prefer to keep the amount in the UFB to strengthen the Town's fiscal position during negative economic trends and unforeseen circumstances.

References:

1. RSA 35:1 Capital Reserve Funds, Establishment of Reserves Authorized. tinyurl.com/2p84da9u
2. Julie Jenks, Finance Director, Town of Raymond, at Deliberative Session on 2/11/223, at timestamp 4:14. tinyurl.com/4wahyrt5
3. NH Municipal Association, Taking the Mystery Out of Fund Balance. tinyurl.com/42u9z32z

Town Article 19 – Town Road Revitalization Capital Reserve Fund

This article raises and appropriates \$150,000 to be placed in the Road Revitalization Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) as part of the Town's five-year strategic plan to upgrade and improve the Town's Roads. (1) This amount comes from the Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB) and not new taxation. There is no new tax impact.

A **YES vote** allows the Town to continue to save for some of the most needed road reconstruction projects.

A **NO vote** will not raise these funds to be used for road reconstruction.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To enable the Public Works Department to reconstruct some roads rather than continue to make more temporary repairs to those roads
- To try to decrease the percentage of road miles in need of reconstruction.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Disagree with using monies from the UFB for road projects
- Prefer to fund road repairs with State money only.

References:

1. Per Town Manager Ernie Creveling, the strategic plan for road revitalization is available at the Town Hall.

Town Article 20 – Water Department Capital Reserve Funds Appropriations

This article will raise and appropriate \$206,000 for the purpose of funding the following Capital Reserve Funds (CRFs) for the Raymond Water Department: Construct, Repair & Maintain Town Water Treatment Facility \$51,500; Water System Infrastructure \$46,350; Water Storage Facilities \$103,000; Water Department Utility Replacement Vehicle \$3,090; New Well Site Acquisitions \$2,060. The total amount being requested is \$6,000 more than was requested last year and is the first increase in 3 years. CRF balances can be found in the Trustees report. (1) There is no tax impact as these funds come from revenue from municipal water users.

A **YES vote** would approve adding \$206,000 into the Water Departments CRFs.

A **NO vote** would not add funding to these CRFs.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To save for future expenses related to our municipal water system
- To avoid potential bonding and increased water rates.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Prefer to bond major expenditures as needed
- Disagree with any of the CRFs to be funded.

References:

1. Trustees of the Trust Funds November 2022 Report, Pages 11-13. tinyurl.com/228npfhp

Town Article 21 – Mosquito Control

The original amount to be raised and appropriated in this article was \$40,000. During the Town Deliberative Session on 2/11/23, voters passed an amendment that lowered the amount to \$1.00.

Raymond has contracted for Mosquito Control services for many years; further information is available in previous RVIP Voter Guides and in archived copies of the Town's Annual Reports at the Dudley-Tucker Library. (1, 2)

In the event of a positive case of infected illness, the Board of Selectmen have the authority to fund treatment of affected areas, if this article passes. (3) There is no tax impact for 2023.

A YES vote approves funding for the 2023 Mosquito Control Program only in the event that there is a positive case of mosquito borne illness.

A NO vote does not approve any funding for the Mosquito Control Program.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- Agree with the amended warrant article.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To disallow any spraying even in the event of an outbreak of any mosquito borne illnesses.

References:

1. Previous issues of the RVIP Voting Guide. tinyurl.com/ysxexcvk
2. Town of Raymond Annual Reports. tinyurl.com/3hrus22e
3. Amendment of Article 21 and discussion at Town Deliberative Session, 2/11/23, at timestamp 5:04, video on RCTV. tinyurl.com/4wahyrt5

Town Article 22 – Shim and Overlay Special Revenue Fund

This Special Revenue Fund (SRF) was created to hold funds that can be saved year to year and used as needed when Raymond town roads need to be rehabilitated with gravel shim and asphalt overlay. The Town's previous Department of Public Works (DPW) Director created an Infrastructure Priority Listing to categorize roads based on their level of degradation and types of repair needed. (1) This article authorizes the withdrawal of \$265,987 from the DPW Shim and Overlay SRF as well as the amount of \$209,013 which was received the last Quarter of 2022 and added to the Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB). (2) Since Raymond's annual Operating Budget cannot accumulate funds year to year, Special Revenue Funds (SRF) must be used when the Town needs to complete a project over several years. Voters must approve all withdrawals. There is no net impact to the Town's Operating Budget because the NH State Highway Block Grant revenue is the source of funding. There is no new tax impact.

A YES vote authorizes the DPW to withdraw \$265,987 from its Shim and Overlay SRF and requires the use of the money prior to December 31, 2025. A Yes vote also authorizes DPW to add \$209,013 from the UFB for a total of \$475,000.

A NO vote means that the DPW will not be able to withdraw and use Shim and Overlay SRF money this year and that the Block Grant revenue funds would stay in the UFB.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To reduce the number of roads in need of rehabilitation in Raymond.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To use the UFB towards another purpose.

References:

1. Raymond NH Town Department of Public Works: Infrastructure Priority Listing (Highway). tinyurl.com/53s2c5dr
2. Julie Jenks, Finance Director, 12/5/22 Board of Selectmen Minutes at timestamp 1:15:59. tinyurl.com/48ve3eda

Town Article 23 – Road Reconstruction Projects

This article raises and appropriates \$382,455 for road reconstruction projects, as determined by the Director of the Department of Public Works (DPW). This appropriation can be held for two years, or until the road reconstruction work has been completed, whichever comes sooner. (1) The State will contribute \$265,987 this year towards the Town's road maintenance. (2) Estimated tax impact: \$0.281 per thousand of tax valuation, or \$56.20 for a \$200,000 home.

A YES vote allows the Town to continue some of the most needed road reconstruction projects.

A NO vote will not raise these funds to be used for road reconstruction.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To enable the DPW to reconstruct some roads rather than continue to make more temporary repairs to those roads
- To try to decrease the percentage of road miles in need of reconstruction.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Disagree with using taxpayer funds for road projects
- Wish to fund road repairs with State money only. (2)

References:

1. RSA 32:7-VI: gives towns the authority to create non-lapsing funds. tinyurl.com/mwwjxwkr
2. 2023 Town Warrant Article 22, Shim and Overlay.

Town Article 24 – Social Services Agencies

This article raises \$40,000 for nine Social Service agencies that provide services to Raymond residents. For details of last year's Social Service Agencies warrant article, refer to the 2022 RVIP Voting Guide. (1) The Board of Selectmen (BOS) capped the expenditures at \$40,000 several years ago, because it exceeded \$100,000. (2) Finance Director Julie Jenks and former Executive Assistant Kim Galipeau applied the ratio that each agency requested and scaled them to meet the cap of \$40,000. (3) The estimated tax impact is \$0.029 per thousand of valuation or \$5.80 on a \$200,000 home.

A YES vote will provide funding to the listed Social Service agencies that serve Raymond residents.

A NO vote will not provide any funding to any Social Service agencies.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To help agencies that provide services that support Raymond residents.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Object to the Town funding any or all of the Social Service agencies.

References:

1. 2022 RVIP Voting Guide, Article 12. tinyurl.com/yckxytz5
2. Per discussion at Town Deliberative Session, 2/11/23, timestamp 5:30. tinyurl.com/4wahyrt5
3. Per discussion at BOS Meeting, 12/12/22, at timestamp 1:31. tinyurl.com/yktak4yv

Town Article 25 - Sick and Vacation Leave Non-Union Trust Fund

This article asks voters to authorize taking \$20,000 from the Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB) and depositing it into the Sick and Vacation Leave Non-Union Expendable Trust Fund. This fund was established at the 2004 Town Meeting (Warrant Article 25) to ensure that the Town would have the money to pay for accrued sick and vacation leave when non-union employees retire or resign, as outlined in the Town of Raymond Personnel Policy. This is an unfunded liability to the Town as there are a few longer-term employees who will require these payouts once they retire or move on. (1) This amount is down from \$40,000 from last year's Warrant Article. (2) There is no new tax impact.

A YES vote moves \$20,000 from the Town's UFB to the Sick and Vacation Leave Non-Union Expendable Trust Fund.

A NO vote does not move any money into the Sick and Vacation Leave Non-Union Expendable Trust Fund.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To avoid over-budgeting for potential long-term employee separations within the Operating Budget, and, conversely, to avoid under-budgeting for unanticipated long-term employee separations.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Prefer to fund through some other means such as the Operating Budget.

References:

1. Presentation made during the Budget Committee Public Hearing on 1/3/23 by Town Manager Ernie Creveling and Finance Director Julie Jenks, at timestamp 02:17. tinyurl.com/96pezccb
2. 2022 RVIP Voting Guide, Warrant Article 17. tinyurl.com/yckxytz5

Town Article 26 – Sick and Vacation Leave Union Trust Fund

This article asks voters to authorize taking \$20,000 from the Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB) and depositing it into the Sick and Vacation Leave Union Expendable Trust Fund. This fund was established at the 2004 Town Meeting (Warrant Article 25) to ensure that the Town would have the money to pay for accrued sick and vacation leave when union employees leave Town employment, as outlined in the Town of Raymond Personnel Policy. This is an unfunded liability to the Town as there are a few longer-term employees who will require these payouts once they retire or move on. (1) There is no new tax impact.

A YES vote moves \$20,000 from the Town's UFB to the Sick and Vacation Leave Union Expendable Trust Fund.

A NO vote does not move any money into the Sick and Vacation Leave Union Expendable Trust Fund.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To avoid over-budgeting for potential long-term employee separations within the Operating Budget, and, conversely, to avoid under-budgeting for unanticipated long-term employee separations.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Prefer to fund through some other means such as the Operating Budget.

References:

1. Presentation made during the Budget Committee Public Hearing on 1/3/23 by Town Manager Ernie Creveling and Finance Director Julie Jenks, at timestamp 02:17. tinyurl.com/96pezccb

Town Article 27 – Town of Raymond Scholarship Fund

This article asks voters to contribute \$4,000 to a scholarship fund for Raymond High School Students. The Board of Selectmen (BOS) decided to raise the amount from \$2,000 to \$4,000. (1) Students must attend a post secondary education facility. At the end of their first semester (or term) they request the funds from the Trustees of the Trust Funds. The scholarship awarded is sent directly to the institution's Financial Aid Office. The scholarship awards are determined by the BOS. Estimated tax impact is \$0.003 per thousand of valuation or \$0.60 for a \$200,000 home.

A YES vote provides \$4,000 in scholarship money to Raymond High School Students.

A NO vote would permit only the funds remaining in the account to be used.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To contribute to RHS graduates.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To pursue other means of raising funds than taxation.

References:

1. BOS Meeting Agenda, page 6, 12/12/22. tinyurl.com/2r55rxmw

Town Article 28 – 4th of July 2023 Community Event

This article provides taxpayer funding for the annual 4th of July celebration. While there is significant community and local business support for this event, not all costs are covered. The \$5,000 requested in this article helps cover costs such as porta-potties, trash removal, extra police details, etc. The cost of the 2022 event was \$4,066.90, excluding labor. (1) Estimated tax impact is \$0.004 per thousand of valuation or \$0.80 for a \$200,000 home.

A YES vote provides \$5,000 to help with the running of the 4th of July celebration.

A NO vote removes the \$5,000 tax-based contribution.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To support the community-wide 4th of July celebration and activities.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Prefer not to use taxes for this event.

References:

1. Town Deliberative Session, 2/11/23 at timestamp 5:46. tinyurl.com/4wahyrt5

Town Article 29 – Waste Disposal Special Revenue Fund (Fund 18)

This article gives the Town access to funds already in Fund 18 for the purpose of waste disposal. It does not raise any additional funds. Monies in Fund 18 come from transfer station lease payments and sale of transfer station permits. While Pay-as-You-Throw (PAYT) is no longer in place in Raymond, funds are still needed to cover the costs of the recycling program at the transfer station. (1) There is no tax impact.

A YES vote will allow the Town to access monies already in Fund 18.

A NO vote will require that any costs associated with the recycling program at the transfer station be paid for by other means.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To ensure that costs associated with the transfer station come from Fund 18
- To continue the recycling program at the transfer station.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Prefer that costs associated with the transfer station come from other means
- To discontinue the recycling program at the transfer station.

References:

1. Town Manager Ernie Creveling at Town Deliberative Session 2/11/23, timestamp 5:52. tinyurl.com/4wahyrt5

Town Article 30 – Establish Contingency Fund

This article will establish a contingency fund in the amount of \$85,235 as allowed by State law from the Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB) to be used for unexpected expenses (e.g., natural disaster, state aid/federal grants subject to cuts, legal). (1) Any appropriated money remaining after paying for an unexpected event will lapse to the UFB at the end of the year. (2) The UFB fund balance was \$4,600,499 at the end of 2022. (2) If contingency funds are not needed at all, the money stays in the UFB.

The concept of creating a Contingency Fund was first approved by voters via Warrant Article 11 in 2019, but appropriated funds have not needed to be used to date and have lapsed to the general fund. (2) The Board of Selectmen (BOS) would determine the need to use the contingency monies and would be required to prepare a detailed report of expenditures in the annual report. (3)

In 2022 the total amount of appropriations for town purposes, excluding amortization of debts and capital expenditures, was \$9,390,237. As noted in the Warrant Article this fund shall not exceed 1% appropriated the preceding year, which is \$93,902.37. The amount \$85,236 being requested does not exceed this limit. (4) There is no tax impact.

A YES vote will create a contingency fund and set aside \$85,235 for unanticipated, catastrophic events.

A NO vote would not create a contingency fund and would require alternative fund source/s for handling unexpected expenses.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To arrange contingency funds for an unexpected event without additional tax impact
- To use part of the UFB for unexpected expenses
- To allow efficient access to funds in the case of an unanticipated, catastrophic event.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Uncertainty about how the contingency fund might be used
- Prefer that contingency monies come from another source such as the Operating Budget or disaster relief
- Prefer that funds are requested from and approved by the NH Department of Revenue Administration before expenditure, per RSA 32:11. (5)

References:

1. RSA 31:98-a Contingency Fund. tinyurl.com/4yhnkj44
2. Per Julie Jenks at Town Deliberative Session, 2/11/23 at timestamp 5:57. tinyurl.com/4wahyrt5
3. NH Municipal Association website, paragraph 11. tinyurl.com/2p833y48
4. Email from Town Finance Director, Julie Jenks.
5. RSA 32:11: Emergency Expenditures and Overexpenditures. tinyurl.com/56wysmaz

Town Article 31 – Elderly Exemption Increase and Reevaluation Adjustment

This article increases the income limits for qualifying citizens applying for the elderly exemption from property taxes, which is an amount deducted from a taxpayer's assessment. (1) The taxpayer must have a net income of less than \$35,490 if single, or a combined net income of less than \$48,116 if married, in addition to age and residency requirements. No change in exemption amounts or net assets limits are proposed. (2) This article is intended to make a 5% adjustment for qualifying residents to keep up with inflationary pressures. Last year, 111 individuals were granted this elderly exemption, resulting in \$217,072 taxes redistributed. (3) The exemption amounts in each age category were increased the last two years to address the change in property values due to the 2021 town reevaluation. (4) Revenue impact depends on the number of exemptions granted. There is no tax impact.

A YES vote will increase the income limits for eligible elderly for property tax exemption.

A NO vote maintains the income limits for the elderly exemption established last year.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To allow elderly residents with higher income limits to be eligible for the elderly exemptions.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Prefer to keep the elderly residents' income limits at the current levels.

References:

1. RSA 72:39-a Conditions for Elderly Exemptions. tinyurl.com/4v8a3yhb
2. For tax exemptions and credits, see articles 18-21 of Raymond Voter Information Project 2022 Voting Guide. tinyurl.com/yckxytz5
3. Town of Raymond Deliberative Session, 2/11/23, Warrant Articles 31-35, 6:00 timestamp. tinyurl.com/4wahyrt5
4. NH Department of Revenue Administration Elderly Exemption Report. tinyurl.com/2s2hpzyw

Town Article 32 – Blind Exemption Reevaluation Adjustment

This article will adjust the property tax exemption for people who are legally blind from \$70,320 to \$73,836. (1) This article is intended to make a 5% adjustment for qualifying residents to keep up with inflationary pressures. The number of citizens who have qualified for this exemption is three. (2) Revenue impact depends on the number of exemptions granted. There is no tax impact.

A YES vote would increase the property tax exemption for qualifying property owners.

A NO vote would keep the current property tax exemption for the blind.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To allow blind residents an increase in exemption.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To keep the blind exemption at the current level.

References:

1. RSA 72:37 Exemption for the Blind. tinyurl.com/2nws6d3y
2. Article 31, reference 3.

Town Article 33 – Disabled Exemption Reevaluation Adjustment

This article increases the income limits for qualifying citizens applying for the Exemption for the Disabled from property taxes (1), which is an amount deducted from a taxpayer's assessment. The taxpayer must have a net income of less than \$35,490 if single, or a combined net income of less than \$48,116 if married, in addition to residency and qualifying disabilities requirements. No change in exemption amounts or net assets limits are proposed. (2) This article is intended to make a 5% adjustment for qualifying residents to keep up with inflationary pressures, and to keep income limits the same for the Elderly Exemption and the Disabled Exemption so that if qualified, when a disabled citizen turns 65, the limits would be consistent. Last year, 28 individuals were granted this disabled exemption. (3) The exemption amount was increased the last two years to address the change in property values due to the 2021 town reevaluation. Revenue impact depends on the number of exemptions granted. There is no tax impact.

A YES vote would increase the income limits for eligible disabled residents for property tax exemption.

A NO vote maintains the income limits for the disabled exemption established last year.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- Allow qualifying residents with higher income limits to be eligible for the elderly exemptions.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Prefer to keep the income limits at the current levels.

References:

1. RSA 72:37-b Exemption for the Disabled. tinyurl.com/3jk7nebb
2. Article 31, reference 2.
3. Article 31, reference 3.

Town Article 34 – Disabled Veterans Credit Increase

This article will increase the property tax credit for qualifying disabled veterans. (1) The increase of \$500 will raise the current tax credit to \$4,000, which is the maximum allowed by the state, and part of a four-year plan to gradually increase this tax credit. Currently, there are 51 recipients of this tax credit. (2) Revenue impact is dependent on the number of credits granted. There is no tax impact.

A YES vote would increase the tax credit to \$4,000 for qualifying veterans or their surviving spouse.

A NO vote would keep the current property tax credit of \$3,500.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To offer an increased property tax credit as allowed by the State of NH.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To keep the current property tax credit for qualifying veterans.

References:

- RSA 72:35. tinyurl.com/3y4kmm8
- Article 31, reference 3.

Town Article 35 – Optional and All-Service Veterans' Tax Credit

This article is a re-adoption of the Optional and All-Service Veterans' tax credits for \$500 each. The Optional credit is for veterans who have lived in NH for one year and served a minimum of 90 consecutive days in the armed forces of the United States during the qualifying wars or conflict periods listed. (1) The All-Service credit is for veterans, as defined by State statute RSA 21:50, residing in NH, who do not have a service-connected disability. (2, 3) In 2021, 437 Optional Veterans' and 53 All-Service Veterans' Tax Credits were granted in Raymond. (4)

Both of these credits were previously adopted by Raymond (2005 for Optional and 2018 for All-Service), and this article re-adopts them because of the 2022 state law (HB 1667) which expands the definition of a veteran to "anyone who has served in the armed forces and continues to serve." For the provisions of this law to apply, the municipality must re-adopt the local option by a vote of the legislative body. (5) Revenue impact is dependent on the number of credits granted. There is no tax impact.

A YES vote would re-adopt the Optional and All-Service Veterans' Tax Credit for \$500.

A NO vote would not allow for the expanded definition of a veteran to include those continuing to serve.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To also make the veterans' tax credits available to those continuing to serve.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Concern about the overall value of the tax credit resulting in lost revenue.

References:

1. RSA 72:28 Optional Veterans' Tax Credit. tinyurl.com/mw49wawe
2. RSA 21:50 Veteran; Armed Forces; Active Duty; Service-Connected Injury, Illness, or Disability. tinyurl.com/2m4kubbj
3. RSA 72:28-b All-Service Veterans' Tax Credit. tinyurl.com/mrujm47f
4. Veterans' Exemption and Tax Credits Summary Report (2021). tinyurl.com/ye3etnud
5. Municipal Association Legislative Bulletin, section entitled, "Expanded Eligibility of Veterans Qualified to Receive Tax Credits. (HB 1667)", 8/17/22. tinyurl.com/4dws783t

Town Article 36 – Stormwater Planning Project (Loan)

This article seeks to raise and appropriate of \$100,000 for the purpose of stormwater planning work relative to management of the municipal storm drain system, known as the NH Small MS4 General Permit. (1)

This article will grant the Board of Selectmen (BOS) permission to apply for a bond or loan and to disperse those funds for Town stormwater planning or eligible projects as needed. (2) The amount of up to \$100,000 of funding is being requested via the NH Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program, which can convert the loan to a grant for the principal amount. NH DES recommended that the Town place this article on the warrant every year to ensure the Town's access to the grant portion of the revolving fund for ongoing projects. To date, the Town has received \$75,000 in grant funding to assist with the MS4 program development. (3)

The CWSRF is a Federal and State partnership that provides communities with low-cost interest financing or loans of up to \$100,000 for stormwater planning or eligible projects. (4) There is no tax impact for 2023. Future tax impact is unknown as funds would first need to be borrowed or bonded.

A YES vote would allow the BOS to negotiate bond or loan terms, spend up to \$100,000 for stormwater planning or eligible projects, and secure funding for the Town to implement activities that are required of the MS4 Permit. (1)

A NO vote would not allow the BOS to borrow or spend funding for stormwater planning or eligible projects.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To bond or borrow and spend funding for continued stormwater planning or eligible projects
- To apply for CWSRF funds, potentially requiring only interest payments, as up to 100% of the loan can be forgiven
- To help the Town comply with the NH MS4 Permit requirements and avoid fines that may be issued by the Environmental Protection Agency for non-compliance. (1)

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Uncertainty about the NH DES-CWSRF loan funding process
- Unknown interest rates on a potential loan or bond

- Questions about the NH MS4 Permit requirements.

References:

1. New Hampshire Small MS4 General Permit. tinyurl.com/4ds57asb
2. RSA 33:3 - Municipal Finance Act. tinyurl.com/4myhah83
3. Per discussion at Town Deliberative Session, 2/11/23 at timestamp 6:09. tinyurl.com/4wahyrt5
4. NH DES Clean Water State Revolving Fund. tinyurl.com/2p8r96d8

Town Article 37 – Change of CRF Purpose - Purchase of 10 Old Fremont Road

Article 37 asks for approval to change the Bean Tavern Capital Reserve Fund's (CRF) purpose to allow the money to be used for the repair, renovation, and preservation of the historic Bean Tavern. The Tavern was purchased by the Town of Raymond with the approval of and appropriation by the legislative body at Town Meeting in 2021. The CRF has an approximate balance of \$37,081.43, which is the residual from the 2021 purchase plus donations for the preservation of Bean Tavern. (1)

The Tavern is located at 10 Old Fremont Road and was built in 1750. It is depicted on the official Town Seal and Raymond's first Town Meeting was held there on May 29, 1764. In 2022, the property was added to the Historic Overlay District (2, 3) and was also designated as one of the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance's Seven to Save properties. (4) A two-thirds vote is required. There is no tax impact.

A **YES vote** approves the change of purpose of the CRF.

A **NO vote** will not change the purpose of the CRF.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To allow the funds to be used to repair, renovate, and/or preserve the Bean Tavern
- To address existing critical maintenance issues that are currently unfunded
- To provide matching funds for grants that could be used for repair, renovation, or preservation of the historic Bean Tavern.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To allow time for the Town to determine a specific use for the property
- Objection to making improvements to the Bean Tavern.

References:

1. Raymond Deliberative Session, 2/11/23 at timestamp 6:27. tinyurl.com/4wahyrt5
2. RVIP, 2022 Guide, page 6. tinyurl.com/yckxytz5
3. 2022 Vote Article 5 Zoning Amendment 971 yes/371 no. tinyurl.com/yckvmzm5
4. NH Preservation Alliance, Seven to Save list. tinyurl.com/mt6vfsww

Town Article 38 – Re-establish Cemetery Trustees

This article calls to change the responsibility for cemeteries from the Town Manager to a three-person board of Cemetery Trustees, governed by RSA 289:6 and RSA 289:7. (1, 2) In 2010, due to a lack of volunteers, voters approved a warrant article to transfer responsibility of the cemeteries to the Town Manager. (3) If passed, Cemetery Trustees will be elected in 2024 per RSA 289:6 III. There is no tax impact.

A **YES vote** would return responsibility of the cemeteries to a volunteer (elected) board.

A **NO vote** would leave responsibility for the cemeteries with the Town Manager.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To return oversight of the town cemeteries to an elected board with statutory duties and obligations
- Believe there will be improved conditions at the cemeteries with an elected board.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To continue having the Town Manager be responsible for cemeteries
- Concerned that an elected board may not have the time to devote to the cemeteries.

References:

1. RSA 289:6 Cemetery Trustees. tinyurl.com/yc2rdp86
2. RSA 289:7 Powers and Duties. tinyurl.com/y9fcjp3t
3. Town of Raymond Annual Report, 2010. tinyurl.com/3f5c5e8e

Town Article 39 – Establishment of a Heritage Commission

Article 39 asks for your approval to establish a Heritage Commission and to have the Board of Selectmen appoint five members. (1) A Commission's work is guided by officially adopted rules of procedure as established by the Board of Selectmen (BOS). Such a Commission can promote and protect cultural and historic resources and acts primarily to advise and assist other local boards. A Heritage Commission can do for cultural resources what Conservation Commissions do for natural resources. There is no tax impact.

A **YES vote** would allow the BOS to establish and set up a Heritage Commission.

A **NO vote** would not allow a Heritage Commission to be established.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To have a commission that could advise and assist other boards and commissions on matters to preserve and protect Raymond's history
- Citizens volunteered to be on the commission and worked with BOS to put this article on the warrant
- To have a team of people who could work together to get the Bean Tavern renovated, including steps to procure additional grants and donations.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Objection to the protection of the town's historic resources by a new commission
- Prefer that the BOS make decisions regarding historic resources without the involvement of a heritage commission
- Concern about enough volunteers for existing boards and commissions.

References:

1. RSAs 673 & 674. tinyurl.com/2p88yxc4

Town Article 40 – Amendment to the Raymond Code of Ethics

This Amendment to the Raymond Code of Ethics is for clarification purposes. (1) The Chair of the Town's Ethics Committee put this article forth to include language that encompasses the need for public servants to operate within the scope of the RSA 91-A requirements, and provide an outline to achieve that goal. (2, 3) Additionally, language is added to clarify that while it is the right of a party to be represented by counsel, the cost associated with that representation is at the party's own expense and not that of the taxpayers. There is no tax impact.

A **YES vote** will clarify the need for public servants to familiarize themselves with RSA 91-A requirements regarding ethics, and that legal representation at ethics pre-hearings or hearings is at the expense of the party being represented.

A **NO vote** will not change the wording of the Raymond Code of Ethics, and responsibility for the cost of representation by counsel will not be clarified.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To make sure elected and volunteer public servants of the town are familiar with the 91-A statute
- To clearly state that counsel, if desired, is paid for by the parties and not by the Town.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- See no need to qualify that 91-A is an ethical consideration
- To leave the cost of legal for represented parties unstated.

References:

1. Raymond Code of Ethics. tinyurl.com/ybdc5x3s
2. RSA 91-A. tinyurl.com/338etwey
3. Board of Selectmen 1/18/23 RCTV time stamp 47:45. tinyurl.com/mvb922fr

Town Article 41 – Citizen Petition - Community Power Committee

This is a Citizen Petition Warrant Article

The Petitioner states that building a community Solar Array on an available site may be capable of providing revenue from sales of power to the grid to be used to pay School and Municipal supplier electricity costs; that revenue from excess power of the Solar Array could be applied to reducing local electric costs or saving for future projects; that this project could bring long term stability to pricing and provide additional energy independence from market prices; and that households and businesses would be free to enroll or opt-out at any time at no cost and can keep their current electricity supplier, if they wish. (3, 4)

This Citizen Petition is advisory to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) if passed, to establish the Community Power Aggregation Committee and to recommend action steps. There is no tax impact.

A **YES vote** will advise the BOS to establish a Committee that will work to offer reduced supplier rates for electricity in Raymond.

A **NO vote** will not advise the BOS to create this Committee or affect current electric utilities.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To establish a Town Committee to study and recommend plans for energy partnerships
- To work toward lower-cost electricity for the Town, Schools, residents, and businesses
- To explore the use of solar and geothermal power to mitigate community power costs.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Not interested in forming a committee to explore aggregation, solar, geothermal, or purchase agreements for the Town
- Satisfied with the current energy/utility options and costs for the Town, Schools, residents, and businesses
- Concern about the timeline listed in the Petitioner's goals for the Committee.

References:

1. NH RSA 53-E providing authority to municipalities to establish Community Power. tinyurl.com/dezyw2mw
2. 2009 Raymond Master Plan, Section VIII. tinyurl.com/up6pk54p
3. Slide presentation for Warrant Article 41- Community Power Aggregation Committee Presentation. tinyurl.com/y4vnd8rd
4. Discussion at Town Deliberative Session, 2/11/23 timestamp 7:01. tinyurl.com/4wahyrt5

Town Article 42 – Citizen Petition - Dudley-Tucker Library Content

This is a Citizen Petition Warrant Article

This Citizen Petition seeks to remove any books with content containing nudity, gender identity, sex or sexual references in writing or illustrations from the downstairs Children's Room in the Dudley-Tucker Library. Some citizens have raised concerns about specific books at the Library Trustees meetings. (1) The Library Director detailed specific books that might unintentionally be excluded from the Children's Room if this article were to be adopted. (2) This Citizen Petition Article is advisory. (3) There is no tax impact.

A **YES vote** advises the Dudley-Tucker Library to remove books containing the stated content from the Children's Room.

A **NO vote** does not advise the Dudley-Tucker Library to take action.

Reasons to vote YES:

- To prevent books containing nudity, gender identity, sex or sexual references in writing or illustrations in the Children's Room
- To attempt to prevent children from seeing such content.

Reasons to vote NO:

- To allow Librarians to select which books to include in the Children's Room
- Concern that widely accepted, educational books will unintentionally be removed as well.

References:

1. Discussion at DTL Trustees meeting, 10/22/22 and 12/15/22, respectively. tinyurl.com/2p8rperp, tinyurl.com/3jhzwc45
2. Library Director, Kirsten Rundquist Corbett, speaking at Town Deliberative, 2/11/23 at timestamp 7:35. tinyurl.com/4wahyrt5
3. RSA 202-A:6 Public Library Trustees. tinyurl.com/2vud8n5v

Town Article 43 – Citizen Petition - Dudley-Tucker Library and ALA

This is a Citizen Petition Warrant Article

This Citizen Petition seeks to withdraw the Dudley-Tucker Library (DTL) from any and all obligations to the American Library Association (ALA). The Library currently pays annual dues of \$175 to the ALA, a professional association for libraries. According to the Petitioners, there is concern about the Library using this professional association due to certain ALA guidelines. Citizens' concerns were stated at Town Deliberative Session and at recent DTL Board of Trustees meetings. (1, 2)

This Citizen Petition Article is advisory only because the DTL Board of Trustees has complete authority over management of the library per RSA 202-A:6. (3) There is no tax impact.

A **YES vote** would advise the Library to discontinue membership in the ALA.

A **NO vote** would not make any change.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- Do not want the Library to be a member of the ALA or receive their resources
- Disagree with ALA positions and/or guidelines.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Voters have control over governance through the election of Library Trustees
- To keep the Library as a member of the professional association for American libraries.

References:

1. Town Deliberative 2/11/23 at timestamp 8:10:50. tinyurl.com/2mnr6r3e
2. Discussion at DTL Trustees meetings, 10/22/22 and 12/15/22, respectively. tinyurl.com/h5axab97 and tinyurl.com/543bauvd
3. RSA 202-A:6 Public Library Trustees. tinyurl.com/2vud8n5v

Town Article 44 – Citizen Petition - Water Tower Alternative

This is a Citizen Petition Warrant Article

This Citizen Petition seeks to offer a tax-free solution to Raymond's current water tower issues as an alternative to the current Town plan in Article 10. Funding sources would include the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, all of the Water Department Capital Reserve Funds (CRFs), 2023 Water Department CRF in Article 20, and a similar appropriation in the 2024 Water Department CRF, but it would not use any bonding or borrowing.

This Citizen Petition is proposed as a framework for an alternative approach to address the water tank violations and prepare for the addition of a third tank to provide fire flow and volume capacity. (1, 2) Because there are currently five Water Department CRFs with different purposes. (3)

Per the Petitioner, NH Drinking and Groundwater Trust Fund (DWGTF) funding may be available for a later phase. The petitioner suggests that a future phase of the project be funded by revised connection fees or development fees. (3) The Petitioner states that this no-tax impact solution would meet the conditions of the NH Department of Environmental Safety (DES) "Administrative Order by Consent". It proposes a means to resolve the water tank deficiencies noted by DES.

This Citizen Petition is advisory only because the article doesn't raise and appropriate funds, as explained by the Town Attorney at Deliberative Session. There is no new tax or water rate impact.

A **YES vote** would advise the BOS to rehabilitate the Route 156 water storage tank and to make updates to the Main Street water lines.

A **NO vote** would not advise the BOS to address the water tank issue through this alternative solution.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To advise the Town to move forward with this proposed tax-free solution
- To advise the Town to arrive at a solution utilizing existing infrastructure
- To support further exploration of alternatives to Article 10.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To finance a water tower replacement as proposed in Article 10
- Concerns about water capacity for Town fire suppression caused by any temporary reduction in overall capacity



- Concerns about fully depleting the existing and future Water Department Capital Reserve Fund balances.

References:

- Town Deliberative Session, 2/11/23 at timestamp 2:25:01. tinyurl.com/4wahyrt5
- Water Storage Facilities Evaluation Final Report from Weston & Sampson, 1/31/20. tinyurl.com/yc4v8nh9
- Trustees of the Trust Fund, November 2022 report. tinyurl.com/228npfhp

Town Article 45 – Citizen Petition - Chemical Establishments

This is a Citizen Petition Warrant Article

This Citizen Petition seeks to prohibit chemical recycling and refinery companies in Town. The Petitioner cites concern about manufacturing processes and products that can adversely affect the environment. (1, 2) The Petitioner cites concern that some chemical refining and recycling processes produce useful but hazardous products and can have potential catastrophic consequences to our resources. This Article is advisory only. There is no tax impact.

A **YES vote** would advise the Town that chemical recycling or refining as defined should be prohibited in Raymond.

A **NO vote** would not advise the prohibition of chemical recycling or refining in Raymond.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- Concern that processes could contaminate groundwater, stack emissions could pollute the air, and spills or catastrophes could permanently spoil our resources
- Concern that the tax benefit does not outweigh the potential harm to Town resources.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To avoid limiting business or industrial development in Town
- To increase business and industrial tax base by allowing this type of development.

References:

- Gasification Process Data from US Environmental Protection Agency, State of Practice for Emerging Waste Conversion Technologies report, October 2012. tinyurl.com/2fbb4cer
- Ecology Center, Plastics Task Force: Environmental Impacts. tinyurl.com/5e2xphyp

Town Article 46 – Citizen Petition - Remove TIF Overlay District

This is a Citizen Petition Warrant Article

This Citizen Petition seeks to remove a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Overlay District from Town ordinance. (1) TIF is a method of financing public improvements with the incremental taxes created by new construction, expansion, or renovation of property within a defined area of the community. (2) The TIF district was approved by voters in March 2006 to encourage a mixture of land uses as part of a unified development planned near Exit 4. More specifically, this Overlay District was created in conjunction with the Town's initiative to construct and operate a municipal wastewater facility to complement a mixed use development at Exit 4. (3) Since then, that development project was not created and the application for development expired. It also included a Sewer Overlay District which was removed by voters in March 2021. (4) There is no tax impact.

A **YES vote** will remove the TIF Overlay district in Raymond.

A **NO vote** will not remove the TIF Overlay district in Raymond.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To require another vote for any new TIF proposal.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Prefer to leave the status of the Raymond TIF Overlay district as is.

References:

- Talk of the Town October 2022. tinyurl.com/2p8re53e
- NH Office of Strategic Initiatives, Tax Increment Financing. tinyurl.com/yyswadxb
- 2006 Article 15 [passed 1271 yes / 561 no]. tinyurl.com/ynz7kvcc
- 2021 Article 6 [passed 590 yes / 571 no]. tinyurl.com/yc3zrysn

Educate Yourself!

Questions about Voting Day? Visit the Town's website:

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Review School Voter Information:

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• • •

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Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Iber Holmes Gove Middle School

7am - 7pm

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We believe:

- the responsibility for good government rests on the shoulders of every citizen
- a well-informed voter has the greatest freedom of choice
- it is possible to present objective voter information
- the good of the Town of Raymond is best served when all its citizens participate in study, deliberation, and voting.

We strive to:

- improve citizen access to comprehensive, complete, objective information on Raymond candidates, issues, and proposed warrant articles
- encourage participation in Raymond's Deliberative Sessions and local elections
- encourage citizens to seek public office.

Mark your choices and bring this page to the polls with you!

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| School Warrants | | | |
| 1 School Candidates | | 4 Capital Reserve Funds for CIP | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 School Operating Budget | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 Transfer of Surplus Funds | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Amend Collective Bargaining Agreement with REA | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 RCTV Lease | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Town Warrants | | | |
| 1 Town Candidates | | 24 Social Service Agencies | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Zoning - Sprinklers/Fire Alarms | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 Sick & Vacation Non-Union Trust Fund | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Zoning - Parking Lot Permits in Zone G | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 26 Sick & Vacation Union Trust Fund | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Zoning - Definition of "Parking Lot" | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 27 Scholarship Fund | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Zoning - EV Charging Station | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 28 4th of July Event | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Zoning - Groundwater Conservation | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 29 Waste Disposal Fund | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Zoning - Zone G Setbacks/Requirements | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 30 Establish Contingency Fund | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 Zoning - Elderly HOD Requirements | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 31 Elderly Exemption Adjustment | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 Zoning - Add Workforce HOD | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 32 Blind Exemption Adjustment | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 Water Tower Replacement Financing | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 33 Disabled Exemption Adjustment | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 Town Operating Budget | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 34 Disabled Veterans Credit Increase | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12 Collective Bargaining Agreement - Teamsters | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 35 Veterans' Tax Credits | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13 Collective Bargaining Agreement Special Meeting | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 36 Stormwater Planning Project Loan Application | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14 Two Full Time Firefighters | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 37 Change of CRF Purpose-Bean Tavern | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15 Youth/Special Events Coordinator | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 38 Re-establish Cemetery Trustees | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16 Capital Improvements | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 39 Establish Heritage Commission | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17 Appropriate to Bridge and Culvert CRF | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 40 Amendment to Code of Ethics | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18 Vehicle, Equipment Revitalization CRF | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 41 Citizen Petition: Community Power Committee | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19 Road Revitalization CRF | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 42 Citizen Petition: DT Library Content | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20 Water Department CRFs | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 43 Citizen Petition: DT Library & ALA | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 21 Mosquito Control | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 44 Citizen Petition: Water Tower Alternative | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 22 Shim & Overlay Special Reserve Funds | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 45 Citizen Petition: Chemical Establishments | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 23 Road Reconstruction Projects | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> | 46 Citizen Petition: Remove TIF District | Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> |