



**Raymond Voter
Information
Project**

**Vote on Tuesday
March 8th
2011!**

Designed by:
Hope Palattella from Raymond High School

RAYMOND VOTER INFORMATION PROJECT

Welcome to the **Raymond Voter Information Project** and our second annual edition of our voter information guide. Our goal is to provide voters with clear, comprehensive, objective information about Raymond's 2011 Town and School warrant articles in a format that voters will find interesting and easy to understand.

This year we sponsored a talk by Ben Frost, Esq. on "*How to Write an Effective Citizen's Petition Warrant Article.*" In addition, we invited Raymond middle and high school students to participate in a writing contest, submitting up to 250 words on the topic:

"Why should citizens participate in local elections?"

We are pleased to present the winning entries here, and hope that you will find them inspiring.

Each **Raymond Voter Information Project 2011** listing gives a short introduction with purpose, pertinent history, and tax impact expressed in amount per \$1,000 of property valuation. (To figure your tax for each item, divide the assessed dollar value of your home by 1,000 and then multiply by the rate.) The Raymond Voter Information Project makes no value judgments on taxes but leaves it up to each voter to decide if the cost listed is worth the benefit.

Next we give the effect of a **YES vote** followed by the effect of a **NO vote**. Finally, you will see our research on **reasons why some voters might vote yes**, and then **reasons why some voters might vote no**. For links to listed references, and to exact wording of articles on the ballot, check our website at www.raymondvip.info. Since our guide takes about a week to produce and distribute, last minute changes may not make it into print, but they will be posted on our website as soon as we receive them.

Our reporters, citizen readers, editors, and website staff welcome your suggestions and comments. Contact us if you would like to serve as a citizen reader next year. If you like what you see here, please consider joining the Raymond Voter Information Project or making a donation so that our work to encourage informed voter participation can continue. We are a non-profit group, entirely funded by contributions. (Box 813, Raymond, NH 03077)

We offer our thanks and our appreciation to the many Raymond citizens, staff, and elected and appointed Town and School District officials who contributed information, facts, and support. The final product is entirely our own.

Sincerely,

★ Kathy Mayo ★ Sally Paradis ★ Kim Tyndall ★
★ Marilyn Elliott ★ Carolyn Matthews ★
Raymond Voter Information Project Editorial Committee 2011

See you at the polls
at the IHG Middle School
on March 8, 2011
7 AM to 7 PM

For the latest information on any article, check our website at:

www.raymondvip.info

SCHOOL WARRANT

SCHOOL ARTICLE 1

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

Select one candidate for School Board Member for a term of three years.

Candidates for School Board: Nicole Yurek
Gretchen Gott

For information on the candidates, go to www.raymondvip.info

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SCHOOL ARTICLE 2

SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET 2011

Article 2 was amended at the School Deliberative session on 12 February 2011 to add recommendations by the Raymond School Board and the Budget Committee.

The Raymond School District proposes an operating budget of \$21,771,803 for the Raymond School District's 2011-2012 school year. The proposed budget includes the increased cost for insurance and retirement benefits as billed by the providers of these services. The budget also includes a reduction in staffing and other district costs.

The proposed school budget reflects a tax decrease of \$.29 per \$1000 of valuation which is a reduction from last year of 1.3%. The proposed budget is also lower than the default school budget.¹ The default budget will increase the tax cost over last year by \$.08 per \$1000.²

A **YES vote** raises \$21,771,803 to fund the 2011 school operating budget.

A **NO vote** raises \$22,144,189 (the default budget) to fund the 2011 school operating budget.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- ★ The proposed budget was developed by the School Board, who accepted recommended reductions by the Budget Committee.
- ★ The proposed budget maintains current services, decreases staffing based on current enrollment, and provides for the contractually increased cost of insurance and retirement.
- ★ The default budget is \$372,386 higher than the proposed budget.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- ★ The default budget will give the school district an additional \$372,386 to fund the district.

References:

1. The default budget is automatically raised if the proposed operating budget article fails. The figure for the default budget is the budget from last year, plus any additional contractual requirements or required increases.
2. Ron Brickett, SAU33 Business Administrator

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SCHOOL ARTICLE 3

RAYMOND EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (REA) CONTRACT

This article provides funding for the first year of a two year collective bargaining agreement between the Raymond School District and the 142 teachers in the Raymond Education Association (REA). The contract outlines working conditions and expectations for both the district and its employees. Teachers' health premium contribution, co-pays for doctor visits and for prescription drugs increase; new rules for personal and sick leave apply; more time at school is required for faculty

and student conferences, and options for student scheduling increase; new-hire insurance plans have lower premiums for both the employee and the district.

A reduced number of salary increase steps in the pay plan result in a reduced number of teachers eligible (40%) for an evergreen pay plan¹ and an increased number of teachers eligible (60%) for a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). Salaries will increase on average 2.6% in year one (\$850-\$2,111) and 3.5% in year two (\$1200-\$2264). Tax cost for year one: \$50,297 or \$.05 per \$1000 of tax valuation.²

A **YES vote** approves the new contract between teachers and the district.

A **NO vote** means that teachers and the district will not have a contract for school year 2011-12 and must continue under the 2009-10 contract for a third year.³

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- ★ The District saves \$236,452 over two years due to changes that increase teachers' health plan premiums, increased insurance and prescriptions-co pays, and only partial benefits to part time employees.⁴
- ★ Pay increases are delayed. Teachers will receive half in the first quarter and half in the fourth quarter in the first year. The pay increase in the second year will not begin until the fourth quarter of the year.
- ★ Teachers have not received a pay increase since 2009, and they would now pay 17% of their health insurance premiums.⁵

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- ★ Objections to one or all terms of the collective bargaining agreement.

References:

1. Enacted in 2008, RSA 273-A:12,VII, the Evergreen Pay Plan keeps the existing contract in place when the employer and the employee bargaining unit cannot agree on a new collective bargaining agreement before the existing one expires. This means that if a step pay plan with pay increases (other than COLA) has been negotiated, those planned increases can't be terminated. Senate Bill 1, which repeals the Evergreen Pay Plan, is now being heard in the NH House of Representatives. It is believed that Evergreen Pay Plans take away the incentive to negotiate. For Raymond, since the REA contract takes effect on July 1st, if the evergreen law is repealed with the current "immediately effective" condition, the law will not apply to this contract.
2. Estimated tax cost for year two: \$.22 per thousand of tax valuation. Ron Brickett, Business Administrator, SAU 33
3. Cost increases outside of the District's control (insurance, retirement, etc.) must continue to be funded.
4. Saving for year one: \$163,264; for year two: \$73,188.
5. Most recent state data shows that the average salary for Raymond teachers is in the bottom third of NH public schools. The average salary for NH teachers is \$51,443; the Raymond average is 9% less at \$46,807. New Hampshire Department of Education, Teacher Average Salary in Public School Districts for School Year 2009-2010

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SCHOOL ARTICLE 4

**RAYMOND EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF (RESS)
CONTRACT**

This article provides funding for the first year of a two year collective bargaining agreement with 112 Raymond Educational Support Staff (RESS) which includes para-professionals, secretaries, food service workers, and custodians. The contract outlines working conditions and expectations for both the district and its employees. Beginning in year one, stipends for certification/education will increase by \$100 for each eligible employee, and full-time employees will receive one additional holiday. Beginning in year one, the prescription co-pay will increase for employees with a cost savings to the district of \$13,448 in the first year. Bereavement leave and unpaid leave use have added restrictions. Salaries will not increase in year one. In year two, employees will receive a 2% Cost of Living

Adjustment (COLA). The tax cost to fund the first year of the contract is \$7,200 or \$.007 per \$1000 of tax valuation.¹

A **YES vote** approves the two-year contract for all support staff (RESS) and raises \$7,220 to fund the first year.

A **NO vote** means that RESS employees and the district will not have a negotiated contract for the school year 2011-2012. The current employee insurance co-pays will remain the same.²

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- ★ No COLA impact to taxes this year; 2% COLA will impact taxes the second year.
- ★ The district saves \$13,448 in health insurance costs the first year.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- ★ Objections to one or all terms of the collective bargaining agreement.
- ★ Cost of living increase is delayed for support staff by one year.

References:

1. Tax cost for the second year of the contract is estimated at \$.04 per \$1000 of tax valuation. Ron Brickett, SAU33 Business Administrator.
2. Cost increases outside of the District's control (insurance, retirement, etc.) must continue to be funded.

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SCHOOL ARTICLE 5

SPECIAL MEETING

If Article 2 does not pass, the Raymond School District will have the authority to call a special meeting for the purpose of presenting a new ratified collective bargaining agreement.¹

A YES vote allows the School District to call one special meeting to address a new contract.

A NO vote means that there can be no special meeting.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- ★ Gives the School Board the opportunity to renegotiate the contract and present it to the voters.
- ★ The district could hold a meeting without having to petition the court, thereby saving legal fees.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- ★ An additional meeting would cost approximately \$1,200 if a simple ballot rather than printed ballots are used.²

References:

1. RSA 32:20, Municipal Budget Law
2. Ron Brickett, SAU 33 Business Administrator. Note: Cost would be more if a printed ballot must be used.

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SCHOOL ARTICLE 6

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)

This article proposes to raise \$195,000 for two School District Capital Reserve Funds (CRFs) to support the School's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). A CRF is a savings account for scheduled CIP purchases and/or repairs that exceed \$10,000 and have a five year or longer life span. The 2011-12 CIP plan allocates \$166,000 for maintenance/replacement of buildings and grounds, and \$29,000 for technology. No funds are requested for the food service equipment or textbook CRFs. Tax cost: \$.195 per thousand of tax valuation.¹

A **YES vote** raises \$195,000 to fund two CRFs in the Capital Improvement Plan.

A **NO vote** raises no money to fund CRFs in the CIP this year.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- ★ Saving gradually can help avoid spikes in the tax rate that could occur if the total cost of necessary purchases and/or repairs had to be paid in one year.
- ★ Funding a Capital Improvement Plan gives towns the authority to collect school impact fees from developers (\$1,469 for an apartment, up to \$3,369 for a single family home) that can be used to fund school capital needs.² Since the School CIP was not funded last year, allowing the CIP to go a second year without funding risks mandatory reduction or elimination of school impact fees during the annual impact fee review.
- ★ Bond payments not paid by impact fees must be paid by taxes. Impact fees saved the taxpayers \$47,932 in 2010 and \$92,314 in 2009 and helped pay the Iber Holmes Gove Middle School bond.³

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- ★ High cost items can be financed as they are needed with a voter approved bond.
- ★ Projects should be bonded (borrowed) and paid for as a project is built and used, rather than saving prior to building.

References:

1. Ron Brickett, SAU33 Business Administrator
2. Bruce Mayberry, Impact fee consultant
3. Ron Brickett, SAU33 Business Administrator

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WHY SHOULD CITIZENS PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL ELECTIONS?

We call ourselves a democracy, but what is that worth? A democracy is supposed to be the opinion of the majority of the citizens, but only forty percent of eligible voters vote. A democracy is supposed to be a country driven by the citizens, but if most of our eligible voters can't find enough drive for themselves to vote, where is this country headed?

There are actually three different steps to the election process. First, you need to research the issue. Actually know what you're talking about. You have to understand the importance of each issue and what the issue actually is. Research the issues! If you're not an informed voter, what good is your vote? Second, you need to go to the deliberative session. Deliberative session is only once a year, so just make time to go. Now that you have a well informed opinion, argue it. Let people know what you think. Try to help inform other voters. Finally, the hard part is over. All you have to do is vote. You've done everything you can to support your opinion, so make sure you get that last chance to put in your two cents.

Hillary Clinton said, "All of us have to recognize that we owe our children more than we have been giving them." Please give us what we deserve. Give us a future where we can bring out new ideas and create instead of having to fix the mistakes of the past. Please, when voting season comes participate and vote. As a kid, I've done all I can. You won't let me vote until I'm eighteen. Now do all you can. Use your right to vote. Please, make us a real democracy again.

Iber Holmes Gove Middle School

First Place: Alyssa May White, age 12

Lived in Raymond: 5 years

Iber Holmes Gove Middle School, Grade 7, Ms. Foshier

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SCHOOL ARTICLE 7

**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT (SAU) 33
STRUCTURE**

Article 7 was amended at the School Deliberative session on 12 February 2011 to replace the original article text with the following text:

To see if the voters will advise the Raymond School board to retain its current administration structure.

This citizen petition article was submitted to both the Town and School warrants. See Article 17 on the Town Warrant for the original article and for Raymond Voter Information Project analysis.

At School Deliberative Session on 12 February 2011, the article was amended to include only the following: **To see if the voters will advise the Raymond School board to retain its current administration structure.** Gordon Graham, the School District's Legal Counsel, stated that a vote on this article would be advisory only.¹

A **YES vote** advises the School Board to keep its current administration structure.

A **NO vote** advises the School Board to change its current administration structure.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes or might vote no: Self-explanatory.

References:

1. Ashley v. Rye, 111 NH 54 (1971), RSA 194-C:4, RSA 189:1-a, RSA 21:29

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SCHOOL ARTICLE 8

EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION CAP

Article 8 was amended at the School Deliberative session on 12 February 2011 to increase the cap limit from \$150,000 to \$225,000 and to specifically note that the vote on this article is advisory only.

This citizen's petition warrant article seeks to place a cap on the salary and benefit package for a school employee. The School District Legal Counsel states that a vote on this article would be advisory only.¹

A **YES vote** advises the School Board that no school employee should receive a salary and benefit package valued at greater than \$225,000 per year.

A **NO vote** leaves compensation decisions up to the School Board.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- ★ To instruct the School Board to consider a limit on the amount of salary and benefits that any one employee can receive.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- ★ Recruitment and retention of qualified candidates may be affected.
- ★ This article provides no method to adjust the cap to reflect already contracted increases in salaries and changes in insurance and other benefit costs not under the control of the District.

References:

1. RSA 21:29, the School Board is entrusted with the hiring and management of the prudential affairs of the District by definition. RSA 194 requires Raymond to provide superintendent services defined under statute. Every school district must belong to an SAU even if it is their own. NH Supreme Court - Ashley v. Rye, 111 N.H. 54 (1971)- finding..."the long and the short of the matter is that the School Board is the managing board of the School District."

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TOWN WARRANT

ARTICLE 1

CANDIDATES

Two (2) Selectmen for 3-year terms	Peter Buckingham Frank Bourque
One (1) Town Clerk/Tax Collector for a 3-year term	Sharon E. Walls
One (1) Town Treasurer for a 3-year term	Grace Collette
One (1) Budget Committee Member for a 1-year term	Brian M. Yurek Edward F. French
Three (3) Budget Committee Members for 3-year terms	Colleen West-Coates Richard Clark Ted Janusz Harry E. McClard
Two (2) Ethics Committee Members for 3-year terms	James A. Tuttle Lawrence Michael O'Donnell Pamela Turcotte
One (1) Trustee of Trust Funds for 3-year term	Sharon Weldy
One (1) Library Trustee for a 2-year term	Sabrina Maltby
One (1) Library Trustee for a 3-year term	James A. Tuttle Barbara Hoffman Beardsley
Two (2) Planning Board Members for 3-year terms	Maurice "Moe" Titcomb Jim Kent

For information on the town candidates, go to www.raymondvip.info

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ARTICLE 2: ZONING AMENDMENT 1

TIME EXTENSION FOR EMERGENCY WATER LINE ZONING

Raymond anticipates an emergency water main extension from Batchelder Road at Route 107, down Route 102, to the Mottolo Superfund site off Blueberry Hill Road.¹ Historically, tying into town water has allowed automatic residential rezoning with smaller requirements for minimum lot size, road frontage, and setbacks—which allows higher density development.² Since temporary limits on zoning changes are the usual way to handle orderly planning for municipal services (schools, police, fire, etc.) necessitated by unexpected situations, the Planning Board recommended, and voters passed (2010), an 18-month suspension of automatic rezoning in this corridor.³ This amendment closes an approximate four-month window during which automatic rezoning could resume before the plan could be Publicly Noticed to the voters for the 2012 election.

A **YES vote** extends the current suspension of automatic residential rezoning for this corridor to December 31, 2011.

A **NO vote** terminates the current suspension of automatic residential rezoning for this corridor on September 8, 2011.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- ★ Allows the Planning Board additional time to hear comments from other town boards and the public.
- ★ Allows the opportunity for any potential rezoning for this corridor to be submitted to the voters rather than taking place automatically.

- ★ Maintains protection against potential sudden increased residential density in this corridor, for which the town is not prepared, during the window between the September 9, 2011 termination of the existing temporary suspension of automatic rezoning, and Public Notice for the Zoning Public Hearing for the 2012 election. (Note: Proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments become binding upon posting Public Notice, and remain binding until the voters make their decision.)⁴

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- ★ Affected landowners who tie into the new water line and want to seek immediate automatic residential rezoning to allow higher density development, will lose the four-month window of opportunity, and may lose the option entirely pending the outcome of the 2012 election.

References:

1. For more information about the Mottolo Superfund, see: http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/hwrb/fss/superfund/mottolo_pig_farm.htm
2. Richard J. Mailhot, Raymond Code Enforcement Officer, Nov. 5, 2010 letter referencing the Raymond Zoning Ordinance 3.200 and 3.210.
3. 2010 Ballot Warrant Article 3 (Zoning Amendment #2) passed 772 to 571. See also Raymond Zoning Ordinance 5.100: Area and Dimensional Requirements.
4. RSA 676.12:I:(a) & (b) and 676:12:VI.

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WHY SHOULD CITIZENS PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL ELECTIONS?

Voting is how we decide who is going to have the ability to make rules and laws that we will have to follow. Whether we are voting for a national position or a town position the people that get elected play an important role in our lives. The purpose of voting is to make sure that the people who are elected represent what the majority of the people want. If everyone doesn't vote then the people who are elected do not necessarily represent what the population wants.

The majority of the voters in our country seem to be more likely to go out and vote for the president, rather than for the people that run in their town, yet local officials have as much of an effect on our lives if not more, than the president. They decide on property taxes, the number of fire fighters and police men in town, and take care of the roads we use to travel to work every day. They must make sure these are plowed, paved, and sanded so that we can safely get from one place to another. Local officials decide where your property taxes are spent and how much of it goes where.

You should vote in local elections because they have a major impact on our lives. Voting is a way for us to get our voices heard and is our right as citizens of the United States. If you don't vote you shouldn't complain about your elected officials.

Raymond High School

First Place: Robert Meade, age 16
Lived in Raymond: all his life (family here for 22 years)
Grade 10, Ms. Williams Government Class

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ARTICLE 3: ZONING AMENDMENT 2

VOLUNTARY SMALL-STREAM BUFFER PROTECTION

This zoning amendment adds one definition¹ and two informational paragraphs to help guide landowners who may wish to **voluntarily** use best management practices to protect Raymond's water quality for smaller streams that lie on their property. This information will be provided when subdivision, site review, or building permit requests come forward and will be available to the public in 2.100 and 3.320 of the zoning ordinance. **No landowner will be required to comply; this amendment is not regulatory.** The amendment applies only to Raymond's Zone G Protected Shoreland Area², which is not regulated by the New Hampshire Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act.

A **YES vote** places, into the zoning ordinance, information about shoreland buffer best management practices for Raymond's Protected Shoreland Area.

A **NO vote** leaves the zoning ordinance silent on best management practices for Raymond's Protected Shoreland Area.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- ★ Placing these voluntary best management practices in the Zoning Ordinance gives the Code Enforcement Officer and the Planning Board an opportunity to educate people about guidelines for encouraging small-stream buffer protection.
- ★ Voluntary compliance gives landowners information but leaves them free to choose appropriate solutions based on the particular conditions of their lot (slope, soil type, current vegetation, etc.)
- ★ Studies have shown that protecting a town's water quality is not achievable without careful protection of small stream systems.³

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- ★ Concern that voluntary compliance may lead to a recommendation for mandatory compliance.⁴
- ★ Concern that voluntary compliance may be insufficient to protect a wide enough buffer (the most effective buffer, needed to filter 80% of pollution, is at least 100 feet wide.)⁵
- ★ Buffer best management practices can be found in Department of Environmental Services reports and elsewhere.

References:

1. Definition: Natural Vegetated Shoreland Buffer: preserved and/or restored trees, shrubs and natural groundcover, throughout Raymond's Shoreland Protection Area.
2. Raymond's Shoreland Protection Area includes land within 75 feet of the seasonal high-water mark of the Branch River, Dudley Brook, Fordway, and other perennial major brooks, streams or ponds; and also land within 50 feet of the high water mark of any brook, stream, or pond having flowing or standing water for six months of the year. (Raymond Zoning Ordinance 3.320.02.a) This Shoreland Protection Area does not include the Lamprey or Exeter River nor Governor's or Onway Lakes which are all protected by the NH Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act.. The high water mark is a line on the shore, parallel to the stream, established by the fluctuation of water and indicated by physical characteristic like a line on the bank, shelving, soil changes, etc.
3. New Hampshire Water Resources Primer (NH DES 12/2008) page 2-8
4. Voters must approve all zoning changes unless specific language within the ordinance allows updating. (For example, some maps can be updated without voter approval.)
5. SNHPC Report on Shoreland Buffers in the Town of Raymond (8/2010) See Appendix C: EPA Study. (Page 33).The SNHPC Report recommended extensive small-stream buffer regulation similar to the state Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act. Also Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques (NH DES/OEP.10/2008: page 237)

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ARTICLE 4: ZONING AMENDMENT 3

GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT REVISIONS

The purpose of Raymond's existing Groundwater Conservation District zoning ordinance is "to preserve, maintain, and protect from contamination, existing and potential groundwater supply areas, and to protect surface waters that are fed by groundwater."¹ This amendment updates the 1992 and 1990 maps of Raymond's wellhead protection areas, high value present and future groundwater areas, and future high-production potential town water supply areas. The amendment also brings the Raymond ordinance closer to the most recent NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) model ordinance adding: new definitions; new thresholds for requiring a storm water management plan (15% rather than 20% of impervious surface); and new Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plans required for some conditionally permitted uses.

A **YES vote** accepts the updates to the ordinance and the new map. It also allows the Planning Board to make future map updates after a Public Hearing without waiting for the town to vote at the next election.

A **NO vote** leaves the old map and ordinance in place, and continues to require the Planning Board to put any map updates before the voters at both a Public Hearing and at the next town election.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- ★ At 9.3%, Raymond approaches the 10% threshold of impervious surface where water quality and habitat degradation accelerate.²
- ★ Eighty-nine percent (89%) of Raymond's surveyed citizens place a very high to high priority on protecting groundwater/drinking water supplies in Raymond.³
- ★ Improved mapped accuracy of "Combined Aquifer, Surficial Geology and Wellhead Protection Areas."⁴
- ★ Recommended by Raymond's Sourcewater Protection Plan (2010).⁵
- ★ Cost and difficulty to remediate contaminated drinking water.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- ★ The lower impervious surface threshold may require more developers to produce a storm water management plan.
- ★ A simpler approach to groundwater protection, which would remove the chance of aquifer boundary disputes and achieve a high degree of protection, would be to apply the Groundwater Conservation District ordinance to the entire town.⁶

References:

1. Raymond Zoning Ordinance (3.340.02) See also specific changes to Article III and IV at www.raymondnh.gov or at the Town Office or Dudley Tucker Library.
2. Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques (NH DES/OEP.10/2008; page 232) and Raymond Master Plan (page 230).
3. University of NH citizen survey (2007) for the Raymond Master Plan (2009).
4. Town of Raymond, NH Sourcewater Protection Plan (2010: page 24-5) An aquifer is generally defined as a soil that has sufficient permeability and water to readily yield a sustainable water supply.
5. Town of Raymond, NH Sourcewater Protection Plan (2010: page 24-5), prepared at the request of the Planning Board by Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission, overseen by Raymond's Technical Review Committee, adopted by the Planning Board.
6. Town of Raymond, NH Sourcewater Protection Plan (2010: page 30) Note: Protection beyond map boundaries may make the ordinance legally vulnerable to challenges.

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ARTICLE 5

AFSCME CONTRACT

This article asks voters to approve a three year contract that was negotiated between the town of Raymond and the town employees that belong to the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local 863 (AFSCME) of Raymond. There are currently 11 members in this union.¹ The article also asks voters to raise and appropriate \$3,806.48 for the current fiscal year at a tax cost of \$.004 per thousand of tax valuation.

This agreement calls for the following estimated increases:

- ★ For the year 2011 - \$3,806.48. No salary increase. Most of this amount is for short and long term disability for the five employees joining the union in 2011 (see footnote). A boot stipend for public works employees is also included in this amount.²
- ★ For the year 2012 - \$28,068.89. This amount represents a 4% increase in salaries and fixed benefit cost increases not within the town's control for current employees of AFSCME Local 863.
- ★ For the year 2013 - \$29,191.65. This amount represents a 4% increase in salaries and fixed benefit cost increases not within the town's control for current employees of AFSCME Local 863.

A **YES vote** approves the new contract between the town and AFSCME Local 863 union members.

A **NO vote** continues the current contract between the town and AFSCME Local 863 union members.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- ★ Agreement with the terms of the collective bargaining agreement.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- ★ Objections to one or all terms of the collective bargaining agreement.

References:

1. Five non-union employees will be joining the union in 2011, bringing the total AFSCME union membership to 16. The cost estimates include these five new members.
2. The boot stipend is only for the year 2011. It is not included in the estimated amount for 2012 or 2013. This is a reoccurring cost related to employee safety.



ARTICLE 6

SPECIAL MEETING

If the collective bargaining agreement in Article 5 does not pass, this article gives the Town the authority to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 5 cost items only.¹

A **YES vote** allows the Town to call one special meeting to address costs.

A **NO vote** means that there can be no special meeting.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- ★ Gives the Town the opportunity to renegotiate the contract and present it to the voters.
- ★ The Town could hold a meeting without having to petition the court, thereby saving legal fees.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- ★ An additional meeting would cost approximately \$1,200 if a simple ballot rather than printed ballots are used.²

References:

1. RSA 32:20 Municipal Budget Law
2. Cost would be more if a printed ballot must be used.

ARTICLE 7

TOWN OPERATING BUDGET

The town is proposing a \$7,008,870 operating budget, which does not include appropriations for other special warrant articles voted on separately. If this budget fails, the default budget of \$7,030,242 would be adopted which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous actions of the Town of Raymond or by law. The proposed budget reflects a tax cost of \$3.85 per thousand of tax valuation. The default budget reflects a tax cost of \$3.874 per thousand of tax valuation.¹

A **YES vote** raises \$7,008,870 to fund the 2011 town operating budget.

A **NO vote** raises \$7,030,242 (the default budget) to fund the 2011 town operating budget.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- ★ The proposed budget will cost taxpayers \$.024 per thousand of tax valuation less than the default budget.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- ★ The default budget will give the town an additional \$21,372 to maintain funds.
- ★ The budget proposed by department heads was cut \$152,120 by the Board of Selectman prior to reaching the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee cut an additional \$139,380 for a total cut of \$291,500 less than the Town department heads recommended.
- ★ The Board of Selectmen does not recommend the proposed operating budget.

References:

1. More detailed information regarding the default budget and the proposed operating budget can be found at: www.raymondnh.gov or at the Financial office at town hall.



WHY SHOULD CITIZENS PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL ELECTIONS?

It is important for citizens to participate in local elections for many reasons. Local elections allow citizens to have a voice on matters that directly affect them, their families, and their neighborhoods.

There are significantly fewer people voting in local elections than in federal elections. This causes one's vote to have a greater impact on the local level. This becomes even more evident when considering, only about 30% of registered voters actually participate at the polls.

Local elections are a vital part of the community because citizen's votes decide on important factors that affect their daily lives. These elections determine things such as the amount of taxes they pay and the level of services citizens are offered. For example, if citizens decide to vote to increase the library's budget, they may benefit by having more access to library resources. Similarly, citizens may vote to cut full time public work attendants, and find that their roads are not being maintained in a manner that is expected. Without resident participation, they can be unhappy with the result of the elections because their opinion was not taken into consideration.

It is in one's best interest to participate in local elections to help decide upon factors that will affect their daily lives. Exercising your right to vote gives you an active part in your government, and doesn't leave the town management decisions up to a few chosen representatives.

**Raymond High School
Runner-Up: Hope Palattella, age 15
Lived in Raymond: 1 1/2 years
Grade 10, Ms. Williams Government Class**



ARTICLE 8

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This article raises and appropriates \$2,000 for the Town of Raymond Scholarship Fund for Raymond High School graduating seniors and Raymond residents attending the first year of college. Raymond High School students apply through the school office; others apply at Town Hall. The Board of Selectmen appoints two Selectmen to review the applications and make recommendations. Recipients are chosen by the Board of Selectmen who also determine the amount of each scholarship. (The last few years, the Board has given two \$1,000 scholarships.) Tax cost: \$0.002 per \$1,000 of tax valuation (same as last year).¹

A **YES vote** will add \$2,000 to the Scholarship Fund.

A **NO vote** will not fund the Scholarship Fund this year.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes or no: Self-explanatory.

References:

- 1. Raymond Finance Department.



ARTICLE 9

TOWN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

This article proposes to place \$185,900 into six Town Capital Reserve Funds (CRFs) to support the Town's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). A CRF is a savings account for scheduled CIP purchases and/or repairs that exceed \$15,000 and have a five-year or longer life span. The 2011-12 CIP plan allocates \$185,900 for the following CRFs: building maintenance/improvement, highway heavy equipment, highway vehicle replacement, police/dispatch equipment and vehicles, fire department and vehicles, and parks equipment/vehicles/facilities. The remaining CRFs will not be funded this year. Tax cost: \$.19 per thousand of tax valuation.¹

A **YES vote** raises \$185,900 to fund six CRFs in the CIP this year.

A **NO vote** raises no money to fund CRFs in the CIP this year.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- ★ Raymond Capital Improvement Plan Committee, Budget Committee, and Board of Selectmen support this recommendation.
- ★ Saving gradually can help avoid spikes in the tax rate that could occur if the total cost of a necessary purchase or repair must be paid in one year. CRF savings also avoid the cost in interest when capital improvements must be bonded (borrowed).
- ★ Funding the Capital Improvement Plan gives the town the authority to collect impact fees from developers to help pay for road construction that would otherwise be paid out of taxes.²
- ★ Since the CIP was not funded last year, allowing the CIP to go a second year without funding risks mandatory reduction or elimination of road impact fees during the annual impact fee review.³

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- ★ High cost items can be financed as they are needed with a voter approved bond.
- ★ Projects should be bonded (borrowed) and paid for as a project is built and used, rather than saving prior to building.

References:

- 1. Raymond Finance Office
- 2. Bruce Mayberry, Impact Fee consultant
- 3. Town Counsel



ARTICLE 10

WATER CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS (CRFS)

This article raises and appropriates \$25,000 to be deposited in the water department's previously established Capital Reserve Funds (CRFs). These CRF accounts allow the department to save for expensive items related to Raymond's town water needs.¹ This is the same amount set aside as last year and in previous years. There is no tax impact since town water users fund these CRFs.²

A **YES vote** puts \$25,000 into already established CRFs.

A **NO vote** will not add funds to these CRFs this year.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- ★ To ensure that money will be available for scheduled mandated maintenance of town water wells and other town water needs.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- ★ None determined at this time.

References:

- 1. Pat Bower, Director of Public Works
- 2. Raymond Finance Office



ARTICLE 11

ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

This article raises and appropriates the sum of \$149,000 for road reconstruction projects as determined by the Director of Public Works.¹ This appropriation will not lapse for two years, or until the road reconstruction work has been completed, whichever comes sooner.² Tax cost: \$.15 per \$1000 of tax valuation. Same amount as last year and previous years.

A **YES vote** allows the town to continue road reconstruction projects.

A **NO vote** puts road reconstruction further behind schedule.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- ★ To keep road maintenance on schedule.
- ★ To decrease the percentage of road miles in need of repair. This percentage has increased in recent years due to the rise in cost of asphalt and other products.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- ★ None determined at this time.

References:

- 1. Department of Public Works
- 2. RSA 32:7:VI gives towns the authority to create non-lapsing funds.



ARTICLE 12

SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

This article raises and appropriates \$70,234 for 14 Social Service agencies providing services to Raymond residents. This is \$14,113 less than last year because the American Red Cross-Manchester Chapter did not appear before the Board of Selectmen to request funding (\$1,200 in 2010)¹ and the Rockingham Visiting Nurse Association does not require funding from Raymond this year (\$12,913 in 2010). Tax cost: \$0.07 per \$1,000 of tax valuation.

A **YES vote** will contribute to the Social Service agencies that serve Raymond residents.

A **NO vote** will not provide any Raymond funding to these agencies.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- ★ To help support agencies serving Raymond.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- ★ Personal objections to one or more of the agencies.

References:

1. The Board of Selectmen has traditionally required a representative of each Social Service agency to appear annually to offer an update on services to Raymond residents.



ARTICLE 13

MOSQUITO CONTROL

This article raises and appropriates \$54,075 for the purpose of monitoring and controlling mosquitoes carrying West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), primarily by larvicide and limited emergency spraying of public assembly areas. A state grant may reimburse the town up to \$3,000, but only after the declaration of an emergency due to mosquito populations or reported instances of West Nile Virus or EEE. Raymond has requested and received reimbursement monies every year that Raymond has had a mosquito control program; however, reimbursement from the state last year was \$2,130 due to the state’s limited funding. Tax cost: \$0.054 per \$1,000 of tax valuation (same as last year).¹

A YES vote funds the mosquito control program in Raymond.

A NO vote eliminates the mosquito control program in Raymond.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- ★ Reduces risk of exposure to West Nile Virus and EEE infection.²

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- ★ Does not guarantee prevention of West Nile Virus and EEE infection.

References:

1. Town of Raymond Finance Department
2. Richard Mailhot, Town of Raymond Health Officer



ARTICLE 14

LUCT REVENUE ALLOCATION CHANGE

Article 14 was amended at the Town Deliberative session on 5 February 2011 to include text identifying the proposed change in distribution of LUCT monies. Refer to the warrant article for the complete text.

A land use change tax (LUCT) is collected only when undeveloped forest or farm land is taken out of its “current use” and developed.¹ Raymond’s current allocation, established by voters in 2005 and 2008, is 50% of any LUCT revenue to the Conservation Fund,² 21.4% to the Capital Reserve Fund (CRF),³ and 28.6% to the General Fund. This article asks voters to change Raymond’s allocation of any future LUCT revenue, sending 100% to the General Fund. This article does not affect LUCT funds currently in the Conservation Fund.

A **YES vote** increases future LUCT allocations to the General Fund, and eliminates future LUCT allocations to the Conservation Fund and the Capital Reserves Fund.

A **NO vote** maintains the current allocation of future LUCT revenue.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- ★ To increase revenue available in the General Fund for town expenses or tax reduction during years when LUCT is collected.
- ★ To eliminate direct funding for conservation and the Capital Reserve Fund.
- ★ To require Raise and Appropriate warrant article(s) to fund conservation land purchases once the current fund is exhausted.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- ★ Loss of the primary source of revenue to the Conservation Fund, which allows the Conservation Commission to accumulate funds to fulfill its mission.⁴
- ★ Once the current conservation fund is depleted, Raymond’s conservation needs must be met out of revenue raised from a special warrant article, with direct impact to property taxes, rather than out of LUCT revenue paid by developers.
- ★ Loss of revenue to supplement the Capital Improvement Plan budgeted revenue for Capital Reserve Funds.
- ★ Limits opportunity, once current fund is exhausted, for the town to bid on land needed to preserve natural resources at the time land becomes available for sale, or to negotiate with landowners who want to complete their sale prior to the next town vote.⁵

References:

1. RSA 79.A:7 The LUCT assessment is 10% of the fair market value of the undeveloped land. The Current Use tax incentive was created in 1972 to encourage preservation of open space; when land is taken out of current use and open space is lost, LUCT revenue can enable towns to acquire other open space to preserve rural character. (NH Association of Conservation Commissions)
2. The Raymond Conservation Fund was established by voters in 1990 pursuant to RSA 36-A:5 to replace Raymond’s Conservation Capital Reserve Fund. (1990 Town of Raymond Annual Report).
3. The Capital Reserves Fund (CRF) is a savings account for the future purchase of high cost items that might otherwise cause a tax spike in the year they are purchased. Example: firetruck.
4. RSA 36-A:2 Purpose of a Conservation Commission: “for the proper utilization and protection of the [town’s] natural resources and for the protection of [the town’s] watershed resources.”
5. Voters have adjusted LUCT (and Timber Transfer tax) allocations between the Conservation Fund and the General Fund over the years. The dollar amount distribution has also varied depending on development activity in Raymond. For example:
 - ★ In 2004 LUCT revenue reached a high of \$195,000 and voters had allocated 100% to the Conservation Fund.
 - ★ In 2005, LUCT revenue dropped to \$40,375 and voters had allocated 30% (\$12,112) to the Conservation Fund.
 - ★ In 2010, LUCT revenue was \$6,414 and voters allocated 50% (\$3,207) to the Conservation Fund, 28.6% to the General Fund (\$1834), and 21.6% to the CRF (\$1373).

Note: LUCT revenue is not available every year.



ARTICLE 15

ELIMINATE THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Article 15 was amended at the Town Deliberative session on 5 February 2011 to remove the following text:

"...and transfer all rights, duties, and responsibilities of the Conservation Commission to the Board of Selectmen..."

This article asks voters to eliminate Raymond’s Conservation Commission.¹

- ★ **Rights** include the right to receive donations or funds designated for conservation purposes, and the right to expend those funds for conservation purposes, including Selectmen and/or voter approved land or easement purchases.²
- ★ **Duties** include conservation education; coordination with regional agencies to promote Raymond’s conservation interests; reviewing/commenting on NH DES wetland dredge/fill and Shoreland Protection permits in Raymond; management of Raymond’s conservation and forest areas including site walks, clean-up, trail maintenance, surveying, etc.
- ★ **Responsibilities** include research, grant writing, maintaining an index of conservation lands and other natural resources, implementing Raymond’s

Master Plan conservation goals including proposing land acquisitions or easements to the Board of Selectmen and/or responding to citizen petitions for the same, and otherwise advising the Board of Selectmen and other town boards on Conservation matters.

A **YES vote** eliminates Raymond's Conservation Commission.

A **NO vote** continues Raymond's Conservation Commission under the guidelines established in RSA 36-A.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- ★ To prevent Conservation Commission recommendations to the Board of Selectmen and/or voters for additional conservation easements or land purchases.
- ★ To prevent Conservation Commission assistance to private landowners who wish to place conservation easements on their land.
- ★ To remove Conservation Commission review/advice when the Board of Selectmen seeks to sell town land or otherwise impact the town's natural resources.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- ★ To continue without interruption the Raymond Conservation Commission's work of providing research and advice to the Board of Selectmen and other town boards.
- ★ To continue to ensure timely review of NH DES wetland dredge/fill permits.³
- ★ To continue to address questions and complaints from residents about conservation and environmental laws.
- ★ To continue to provide sufficient volunteer hours to ensure Raymond's conservation needs can be met without additional cost to the town's general budget.⁴
- ★ To maintain oversight on conservation related decisions pending before the Board of Selectmen and other town boards.

References:

1. RSA 36-A Purpose of a Conservation Commission: "for the proper utilization and protection of the [town's] natural resources and for the protection of [the town's] watershed resources." This protection extends to town owned land. Since 1979, Raymond has had a seven-member (plus Selectmen's ex-officio member) Conservation Commission; members are appointed for three-year terms by the Board of Selectmen.
2. RSA 36-A:4
3. Review of DES permits must be complete within 45 days.
4. See Annual Town of Raymond Reports: Conservation Commission.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 16

NO OHRV USE ON TOWN LAND

This article reinforces the prohibition against **wheeled** off-highway recreational vehicle (OHRV) use on town owned land.¹ The article further amends the ordinance to limit recreational vehicle restrictions only to wheeled OHRVs. Raymond's Code 281-1² restricts all recreational vehicles³ from using town-owned property with the exception of snowmobiles allowed on seven town properties.⁴

A **YES vote** modifies Raymond Code 281-1 to specifically restrict only Wheeled OHRVs from town-owned property.

A **NO vote** leaves Raymond Code 281-1 unchanged.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- ★ To further define the code to specifically state that only wheeled OHRVs are not allowed on town property.
- ★ To prevent the damage caused by wheeled OHRV use on existing trails, which causes exposed rocks, erosion and damage to wetlands.

- ★ To prevent the damage caused by wheeled OHRVs that make new trails through wildlife habitats on conservation lands.
- ★ The town does not receive any state funds from OHRV registrations for trail maintenance or enforcement.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- ★ To leave the current code 281-1 unchanged.
- ★ Wheeled OHRVs are already prohibited in 281-1.
- ★ Snowmobile use is already allowed on seven designated town properties.

References:

1. Wheeled Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles include: All Terrain Vehicles (three and four wheeled motorized ATVs) and Trail Dirt Bikes (two wheeled motorized vehicles). (RSA 215-A:1)
2. Raymond Code - Off-Highway Recreational Vehicles (281-1)
 - A. The Town of Raymond Board of Selectmen hereby gives notice that all Town-owned land is restricted from use by any and all recreational vehicles.
 - B. Revised Statutes Annotated 215-A:29, XI, requires written permission of a landowner to operate an off-highway recreational vehicle (OHRV) on property of another. Any previous permissions thought to exist should now be considered abolished. No such permission will be granted. Violators will be prosecuted.
3. Recreational Vehicles include: All Terrain Vehicles, Trail Dirt Bikes, and Snowmobiles.
4. Voters approved Article 20 in 2010 to modify Raymond Code 281-1 to allow snowmobiles on the Dearborn, Lillian Cassier Memorial Forest, Flint Hill, Robinson Hill properties and town-owned properties located on Shattagee Road, Bald Hill Road, Langford Road, and Colonial Drive.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WHY SHOULD CITIZENS PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL ELECTIONS?

Why should we vote? Why should we care? I'll tell why you should care; you should care because whatever the town is voting on will affect you in more ways than one.

I think we should care about voting because if we do vote it will help our community and we would make a difference. There are many different steps to voting. First, if you are of legal age to vote, get registered. Then get informed. To get informed you could go to town meetings, watch your television on the channel giving you info on the local elections in your town, or even just read the local newspaper. Then you would pick what you want to happen with whatever you are going to vote for. Then lastly you would go to where ever they are holding the elections and make your choice.

If you are under the age of eighteen you can still help with little things you can do every day. When there is a voting election going on in your area, you could just figure out what it is like to vote and watch the programs on TV about them. You could even encourage others that are registered voters to get informed and vote in the elections. Some of the elections are about taxes and a lot of adults really should vote to either raise taxes or lower them. Or if someone you know is running for office or another election you could help them out by running their campaign.

By reading the explanations about voting, I hope you can make the choice to vote for what you believe in for your town elections. I hope you now know the importance in voting and I hope you will help out in any way you can, and don't forget every vote counts!

Iber Holmes Gove Middle School

Runner-Up: Lauren Stockel, age 14

Lived in Raymond: all her life (family here for 16 years)

Grade 7, Ms. Foshier

ARTICLE 17

RESTRUCTURE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT (SAU) 33

This citizen petition article was submitted to both the Town and School warrants. See Article 7 on the School Warrant for the article as amended at the School Deliberative Session on 12 February 2011.

At Town Deliberative Session on 5 February 2011, the Town's Legal Counsel, Robert Ciandella, stated that since the Town of Raymond is a separate corporate entity from the School District, "this article has no binding or legal effect."

This citizen's petition warrant article seeks to direct the Board of Selectmen to reorganize the Raymond School Administrative Unit (SAU) and eliminate some of the employees that work in the SAU office building.¹ Their administrative duties would be divided among the school principals and the school special education coordinators on a rotating basis. The article further suggests that the SAU building could be used to house special education students currently sent out of district. The School District's Legal Counsel states that a vote on this article would be advisory only.² The figures regarding cost savings lack sufficient detail to determine the decrease per \$1,000 of tax valuation.

A **YES vote** advises the Board of Selectmen to take action as described above.

A **NO vote** advises the Board of Selectmen not to take the action described above.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- ★ To instruct the Board of Selectmen to change the way the school district is managed, shifting workload to other staff to eliminate positions.
- ★ The petitioners state that this restructure will save money.³

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- ★ State law and past court cases indicate that this article is advisory only. A vote to direct the Board of Selectmen to take a particular action regarding the school district administration is beyond the authority of the Town Deliberative Meeting.
- ★ The positions of Superintendent and Principal have different educational requirements and different functions. The loss of knowledge and skills unique to the director-level positions eliminated may require the District to seek outside support at additional cost.
- ★ Special education students who are educated in-district must, by law, be included in classrooms with other students. Special education students who are educated out of district have specific educational/physical/emotional needs that cannot be met within district, regardless of space available. (Examples: hospitalization, incarceration)

References:

1. Positions to be eliminated: Superintendent, Human Resources Director, Administrative Assistant, Special Education Director, Technology Director, and support personnel for the SAU. Position subject to elimination: Business Administrator.
2. Ashley v. Rye, 111 NH 54 (1971), RSA 194-C:4, RSA 189:1-a, RSA 21:29
3. At this point, the Raymond Voter Information Project has not been provided with sufficient detail on projected cost savings to verify the accuracy of the amounts listed in the petition warrant article.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 18

LAND DONATION FOR VETERANS CLUB

Article 18 was amended at the Town Deliberative session on 5 February 2011 to add the following text to the end of the article:

"...This commitment will expire in 10 years if the project is not 100% complete and open to its members. Additionally, this land may not be transferred by UVCR without the written consent of the Town of Raymond's Board of Selectmen. The

final terms of this transaction shall be as established by the Board of Selectmen, as the Board deems such terms in the best interest of the Town."

This citizens petition warrant article asks the town to terminate its lease-purchase agreement with the United Veterans Club of Raymond (UVCR)¹ and transfer ownership of a three-acre parcel of town-owned land located on the south side of State Route 27 between Radio Grove Hardware and Clearwater Estates. Terms of the lease-purchase agreement to be rescinded: length of term, seven years with a possible three-year extension pending Board of Selectmen approval; lease price, \$100 per year; purchase price option, \$150,000.²

A **YES vote** rescinds the lease-purchase agreement that was authorized in 2007 and 2008 by voters and donates the land to the UVCR.

A **NO vote** leaves in place the town votes of 2007 and 2008 that allowed the lease-purchase agreement with UVCR.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- ★ Member organizations of UVCR have donated to town residents.³
- ★ Member organizations of UVCR have supported town activities.
- ★ UVCR officials state that they intend to establish a meeting place for member organizations.⁴

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- ★ The Town forfeits the \$150,000 agreed-upon price for the sale of the land.
- ★ UVCR has a charitable tax-exempt status and pays no property taxes.
- ★ UVCR gains the right to sell the land.
- ★ The parcel is in a commercial zone with three acres of commercial value. The Board of Selectmen loses the right to deny the three-year lease/purchase extension and sell or retain the parcel for investment.⁵
- ★ Donating town-owned property to a non-profit organization sets a precedent.

References:

1. United Veterans Club of Raymond (UVCR) is "a 501 C-19 non-profit club established to operate and potentially own the property for establishing a meeting place for all veteran organizations in the Town." This club is an umbrella organization for members of any recognized organization authorized by the UVC By-Laws, currently: Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4479 (VFW), Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary (VFW Aux.), American Legion Post 90 (AL), American Legion Ladies Auxiliary (AL Aux.), and The Sons of The American Legion (SAL).
2. Town of Raymond Annual Report (2008), page 26, 27 and (2007) page 19
3. Ed Miller, Jr. Vice Commander, American Legion #90 Examples in 2010 include: Raymond Recreation Scholarships \$2,100; Cub Scouts \$1,500; Christmas for Raymond families \$2,500, Distressed citizen relief \$1,750.
4. Dick Wood, Adjutant, American Legion, #90
5. Town of Raymond Zoning Map

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ARTICLE 19

EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION CAP

This citizen's petition warrant article seeks to place a cap on the salary and benefit package for any Town employee. Town Counsel states that a yes vote on this article is binding for the Town Manager compensation package, as this is governed by state statute (RSA 37:10¹). For all other town employees, a yes vote is advisory only.²

A **YES vote** advises the Board of Selectmen that no employee should receive a salary and benefit package valued at greater than \$125,000 per year.

A **NO vote** leaves compensation decisions up to the Board of Selectmen.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- ★ To instruct the Board of Selectmen to consider a limit on the amount of salary and benefits that any one employee can receive.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- ★ Recruitment and retention of qualified candidates may be affected.³
- ★ The article provides no method for adjusting the cap to reflect already contracted salary increases or changes in insurance and other benefit costs not under control of the Town.

References:

1. RSA 37:10 “The town manager shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by the selectmen, unless otherwise specifically voted by the town.”
2. RSA 41:8 “... The selectmen shall manage the prudential affairs of the town and perform the duties by law prescribed...”
3. Raymond's current Town Manger has announced his intention to retire in June 2011. The financial office reports that his current salary and benefit package exceeds the cap recommended by this article.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Make your selections and bring your list to the polls.

Town Warrant	School Warrant
2 <input type="checkbox"/> YES Time Extension <input type="checkbox"/> NO	2 <input type="checkbox"/> YES Budget <input type="checkbox"/> NO
3 <input type="checkbox"/> YES Stream Buffer <input type="checkbox"/> NO	3 <input type="checkbox"/> YES REA Contract <input type="checkbox"/> NO
4 <input type="checkbox"/> YES Groundwater <input type="checkbox"/> NO	4 <input type="checkbox"/> YES RESS Contract <input type="checkbox"/> NO
5 <input type="checkbox"/> YES AFSCME Contract <input type="checkbox"/> NO	5 <input type="checkbox"/> YES Special Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> NO
6 <input type="checkbox"/> YES Special Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> NO	6 <input type="checkbox"/> YES School CIP <input type="checkbox"/> NO
7 <input type="checkbox"/> YES Town Budget <input type="checkbox"/> NO	7 <input type="checkbox"/> YES SAU Structure <input type="checkbox"/> NO
8 <input type="checkbox"/> YES Scholarship <input type="checkbox"/> NO	8 <input type="checkbox"/> YES Pay Cap <input type="checkbox"/> NO
9 <input type="checkbox"/> YES Town CIP <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<p>See you at the polls! Iber Holmes Gove Middle School March 8, 2011 7 AM to 7 PM</p> <p>For the latest information on any article, check our website at: www.raymondvip.info</p>
10 <input type="checkbox"/> YES Water CRF <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
11 <input type="checkbox"/> YES Roads <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
12 <input type="checkbox"/> YES Social Services <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
13 <input type="checkbox"/> YES Mosquitoes <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
14 <input type="checkbox"/> YES LUCT Monies <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
15 <input type="checkbox"/> YES Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
16 <input type="checkbox"/> YES OHRVs <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
17 <input type="checkbox"/> YES SAU Restructure <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
18 <input type="checkbox"/> YES Land for UVCR <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
19 <input type="checkbox"/> YES Pay Cap <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

This document is brought to the Raymond community free of charge by the:

Raymond Voter Information Project

P.O Box 813
Raymond, NH 03077
Spokesperson: Colleen West-Coates
Phone: 603-895-9444
www.raymondvip.info

★ **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

★ **Our political policy** is to neither support nor oppose any political party, candidate, or warrant article. Members of the Raymond Voter Information Project come from a broad range of careers and municipal experience, and have many personal viewpoints. Members speak here as citizens and not as members of any elected/appointed Town board.

Annual dues: \$20 (\$10 for additional family members or students).
Donations appreciated.

FREE to Raymond Citizens

Courtesy of the *Raymond Voter Information Project*

★ a New Hampshire non-profit corporation ★
funded by dues and donations

★ dedicated to citizen participation in local elections through the ★
distribution of comprehensive, complete, objective information

**We do not support or oppose any political party,
candidate, or warrant article.**

For more information about Raymond VIP, please contact our
spokesperson or visit our website.

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

www.raymondvip.info