

## **School Article 7 – Citizens Petition**

This Citizens Petition was amended at the School Deliberative Session. (1) It now allows voters to express their position on whether the School Board should continue installing energy-efficient items, including a solar energy system on school property, but does not mandate a solar energy system nor involve funding.

The original petition sought to fund the solar project by raising \$258,060, equal to the first lease payment for the Energy Efficient Investment project, which was made in June 2024 using funds from the Equipment, Facilities Maintenance and Replacement CRF. The final contract was discussed at the School Board's 05/29/2024 meeting. (2)

One of the petitioners presented reasons for the petition to the School Board on 12/18/2024 (3), including reference to the 'no means no' provision of RSA 32:10, which says that if a Warrant Article is defeated, the Town may not spend any funds on that purpose at all in the upcoming Fiscal Year. (4)(5) Additionally, correspondence from the School District attorney was read at the meeting, stating that the School Board's action complied with legal requirements. (3)

At its Public Hearing on 01/07/2025, the Budget Committee reviewed and discussed the Citizens Petition as originally submitted. (6)

For more information on the Energy Efficiency Projects undertaken by the School Board, refer to the meeting minutes and RCTV recordings of School Board meetings from March to December 2024. (7) The School District has also posted a summary video covering all aspects of the Energy Efficiency Projects. (8)

As amended at the Deliberative Session, this article is now advisory and does not involve funding or tax impact.

**A YES vote** will advise the School District to continue with the energy efficient projects.

**A NO vote** will advise the School District to discontinue the energy efficient projects.

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

- Support the suite of energy efficient projects, including the solar portion
- Prefer to finish the project(s) already started

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

- Do not support the suite of energy efficient projects
- Do not support the solar portion of the project

### **References:**

1. School Deliberative Session, 02/01/2025, RCTV recording starting at timestamp [3:29:50] with amendment [4:02:10], <https://tinyurl.com/37zr2jpi>
2. School Board meeting, 05/29/2024, page with links to minutes and agenda with links to contract documents, <https://tinyurl.com/ykp4hhm2>, RCTV video at timestamp [51:30], <https://tinyurl.com/2ev6xuwj>
3. School Board meeting, 12/18/2024, minutes pp. 2-4, and pp. 9-10, <https://tinyurl.com/3me3d2ae>, and RCTV video at timestamp [14:54] petitioner, and [35:20] correspondence from School District attorney, <https://tinyurl.com/rkkttrbf>
4. RSA 32:10, Municipal Budget Law, Expenditures, <https://tinyurl.com/mr426jh3>

5. *Voters Can Bar Spending Through Rejected Separate Warrant Articles*, from *The Top Ten Things You Should Know About Town Meetings*, NH Municipal Association, <https://tinyurl.com/bdh4zr2t>
6. Budget Committee Public Hearing, 01/07/2025, minutes, <https://tinyurl.com/ycx2v354>, RCTV recording at timestamp [2:46:50], <https://tinyurl.com/2p8xs6m8>
7. Minutes of School Board meetings, <https://tinyurl.com/23wpxruy>, and RCTV videos of meetings <https://tinyurl.com/mr34x2pf>
8. Raymond Schools 2025 Energy Project Video <https://tinyurl.com/4p9r7bvj>