

## **Town Article 18 – Rescind and Revoke the Property Tax Exemption for Solar Energy**

The Board of Selectmen propose ending the property tax exemption for solar energy, as allowed by New Hampshire statute in 1975. (1)(2) Raymond adopted the provision in 1982. (3) Until 2016, there were fewer than ten exemptions granted. (4) Raymond offers various exemptions that are permitted by state law, including for people who are blind, elderly, paraplegic, and disabled. Each of the other categories has income and other guidelines, as allowed and as adopted by Raymond voters. In 2023, the solar exemption applied to 59 properties (out of 4,029) and was valued at \$536,300, 0.039% of the Town's valuation, and 2.9% of all exemptions granted. The Town's total valuation of all properties after all exemptions in this comparison is \$1,344,726,317 for the year 2023, which is the net valuation on which the tax rate is computed. (5)

A **YES vote** removes the solar exemption as granted in 1982 by Raymond voters.

A **NO vote** leaves the solar exemption in place.

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

- Believe that residents who have a solar exemption already receive benefit in terms of energy savings
- Don't think any tax exemptions should be available

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

- The overall impact of the solar exemption is much less than 0.01% of the Town's valuation, amounting to \$11,112 across all properties in 2023 (6)
- Believe that the Town solar exemption is a valuable energy cost incentive

### **References:**

1. Solar Energy Systems Exemption, <https://tinyurl.com/2ecuhwta>
2. Solar Energy Systems Definition, <https://tinyurl.com/4hvezr69>
3. Town of Raymond Annual Report 1982, p. 6 Property Tax Exemption for Solar Energy, <https://tinyurl.com/5e97r389>
4. See archive of Town of Raymond Annual Reports, either at the N.H. State Library or online at the archive of town annual reports. See information in all town reports related to town Summary Inventory of Valuation, which also accounts for all exemptions. <https://tinyurl.com/2vknnvfy>
5. Town of Raymond Annual Report, 2023, p. 187, <https://tinyurl.com/3c4ft6vy>
6. Amount calculated using Tax Rate of \$20.72 per thousand assessed valuation, p. 199 of 2023 Town Annual Report, see Reference 5 above