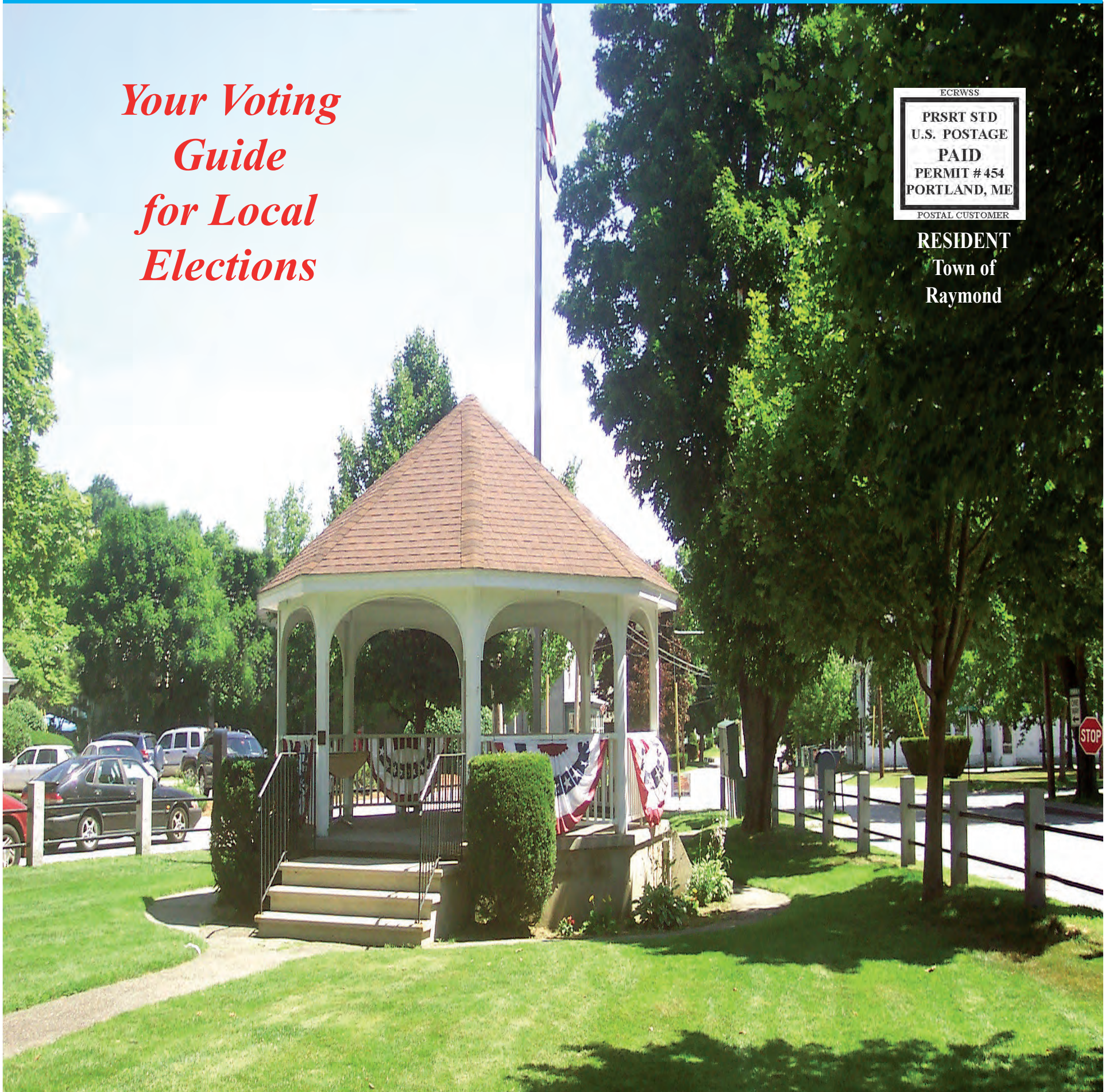


Get out and **VOTE** Tuesday, March 11 at IHG Middle School

*Your Voting
Guide
for Local
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RAYMOND

Voter Information

PROJECT

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

~ Raymond VIP Bylaws

2025

RAYMOND

Voter Information

PROJECT

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Welcome to the 16th annual edition of the Raymond Voter Information Project's VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE! 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. At the beginning of our guide this year, we have a glossary of frequently used terms which we hope is helpful. **Both the Town and School District have excellent Voter Resources, see the inside back page for links.**

We offer heartfelt gratitude to everyone who helped complete this guide, and especially those folks who have been here since the beginning.

Sincerely,

Dana Zulager, President

Raymond Voter Information Project

Glossary of Warrant Article Terms:

Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) With a CRF, the Town saves money for expensive future purchases (e.g. vehicles, renovations, building repairs). Money is gradually added to the CRF and residents vote whether to create a CRF and how the savings will be used. RSA 35:1. A CRF is a fund used to save for the future purchase of a major capital item or a specific type of capital item.

Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) An agreement reached in which working people, through their unions, negotiate contracts with their employers to determine their terms of employment, including pay, benefits, hours, leave, job health and safety policies, ways to balance work and family, and more (<http://tinyurl.com/ydsxzvnx>).

Contingency Fund (CF) A CF is like having a rainy day fund for emergency expenses (e.g. snowstorms, broken pipes). It can't be bigger than 1% of the non-construction and debt-payment costs spent in the previous year. The Town must publish a report showing how the money in the CF was spent. RSA 31:98-a, a town may establish a contingency fund to meet the cost of unanticipated expenses that may arise during the year.

Expendable Trust Fund (ETF) An ETF is savings for routine, everyday needs, but it can also be used to cover unexpected costs like snow removal. Residents vote on creating the ETF, but not all expenditures from an ETF require a vote by residents. RSA 31:19-a, is to save for the maintenance and operation of the Town, and for any other public purpose that is not foreign to the Town's institution or incompatible with the objects of its organization.

Fund Balance A Fund Balance is the difference between the Town's assets and liabilities; in the private sector it would be known as "working capital".

The **Governing Body** is your Board of Selectmen. The **Legislative Body** is another term for the Town's voters.

Raise and appropriate means to collect funds via property taxes (raise) and utilize those funds for a specific purpose (appropriate).

Revised Statutes Annotated (RSA) RSAs are published law code, with notes explaining case law, for all New Hampshire laws enacted throughout the State's history. (<http://tinyurl.com/47yaysy5>)

Shim and Overlay is a method of revitalizing a road that only has minor deterioration by applying a new coat of asphalt, the depth of which is determined dependent on the situation.

Special Revenue Fund (SRF) An SRF is created and used for a specific project and can't be used for anything else. RSA 31:95-c - Special Revenue Funds. Towns may vote to restrict revenues, or any portion of revenues, from a specific source to expenditures for specific purposes.

Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB)

The UFB is money left after the Town has paid all bills and expected bills. It is money that can be used for other purposes, as it is not specifically earmarked. Keeping an appropriate amount in the UFB (per the DRA, between 5% and 17% of regular general fund operating revenues) creates a strong fiscal position and allows the Town to weather negative economic trends and unforeseen circumstances.

SCHOOL WARRANT

School Article 1 – 2025 School Candidates

SCHOOL BOARD – Two (2) Open Positions for a 3-year Term:

Beth Boucher
Emily Ann Cesta
Joe Saulnier

School Article 2 – Operating Budget

This article will raise and appropriate \$31,651,240 for the Raymond School District's 2025-2026 Operating Budget, or, if the article fails, will raise \$31,314,295, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Raymond School Board or by law (1). The amounts above do not include other money Warrant Articles on the school ballot this year. If the Operating Budget Warrant Article fails and the Default Budget is in place, the School Board may revisit the Operating Budget and call one special meeting so voters will be able to vote on the revised budget per State statute (2).

The proposed budget represents a 3.02% increase over last year's Operating Budget and is \$336,945 more than the Default Budget.

As presented to the Budget Committee at their public hearing, the main increases in the budget are \$221,324 for four Behavior Coaches, \$419,274 for three Board Certified Behavior Analysts, \$121,399 for one Curriculum Coordinator, and \$74,797 for one Athletic Trainer; \$222,966 for Transportation, \$302,507 for Student Tuition, and \$335,440 for Repairs & Service contracts. In terms of revenue, State aid revenue last year was \$7,928,042 and this year is projected to be \$7,339,935, or \$588,107 less. Federal revenue is projected to be \$50,000 less (\$1,095,000 in 2024-25 and \$1,045,000 in 2025-26).

The main decreases in the budget are \$62,784 for eliminating one teacher position, \$300,000 for Salaries & Benefits, and \$300,886 for district-wide Contracted Services (partly by bringing the Behavior Analysts and Coaches in-house instead of contracting for the service). Per pupil costs and enrollment of similarly sized schools can be found in the December presentation to the Budget Committee. (3)

For background, the Budget Committee made a cut of \$927,379, making the proposed budget equal to the 2024-25 operating budget as adopted. (1)(4)(5) At the Deliberative Session, after some discussion, a third and final amendment brought the operating budget back to what the School Board initially proposed to the Budget Committee. (6)

The estimated tax impact is \$16.14 per \$1000 assessment, or \$3,228 on a \$200,000 home, which is an increase from the previous year of \$1.14 per \$1000 assessment, or \$228 on a \$200,000 home.

The estimated tax impact of the default is \$15.89 per \$1000 assessment, or \$3,178 on a \$200,000 home, which is an increase from the previous year of \$0.89 per \$1000 assessment, or \$178 on a \$200,000 home.

A YES vote raises \$31,651,240 to fund the Operating Budget.

A NO vote raises \$31,314,295 to fund the Default Budget, and gives the Raymond School Board the option of revising the Operating Budget and calling a special meeting for Town citizens to vote on the new proposal.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To support the proposed Operating Budget
- To agree with the staffing changes, curriculum, and equipment deemed necessary in the school budget
- To prevent the Default Budget from taking effect

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To support the Default Budget
- Disagree with the staffing changes, curriculum, and equipment deemed necessary in the School budget
- To allow the School Board the option of revising the Operating Budget and calling a special meeting for voter action

References:

1. Presentation at Budget Committee public hearing 1/7/2025 by Superintendent Terry Leatherman and Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore, RCTV link: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8xs6m8> and slide presentation link: <https://tinyurl.com/36aazc8n>
2. RSA 40:13, X and XVI, <https://tinyurl.com/mujd9wu7>
3. Per pupil costs and enrollment are shown comparing Raymond to other school districts of similar size (Div. III), Terry Leatherman and Marjorie Whitmore initial presentation to the Budget Committee, 12/03/2024, pp. 27-28, <https://tinyurl.com/mur7xtsc> and RCTV link <https://tinyurl.com/wwspfz2z>
4. 2024 MS-27 Budget, p. 9, <https://tinyurl.com/349w4tme>, 2024 operating budget passed 980-282, <https://tinyurl.com/4mzpw9cu>
5. 2025 MS-27 Budget, <https://tinyurl.com/ydbr65ut>
6. Discussion about the operating budget at the School District Deliberative Session, three amendments were proposed, discussion begins at [12:26] and final prevailing amendment is proposed at [1:50:48], amendment passed on a secret ballot 65-38, School District Deliberative Session 02/01/2025 RCTV link: <https://tinyurl.com/37zr2jpi>

School Article 3 – REA Collective Bargaining Agreement

This article will approve a three-year Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) reached between the Raymond School Board and the Raymond Education Association (REA), which includes raising and appropriating \$415,215 for increases in salaries and benefits for the upcoming fiscal year. There are currently 116.5 teachers and other professional members of REA affected by this new contract.

Notable increases include salaries and benefits, longevity, and team leader pay. Salary increases are dollar amounts rather than percentages, resulting in higher percentage raises for lower salaried employees. Year 1 will increase each position on the salary schedule by \$1,900 (average salary increase 4.7%). Year 2 will increase each position by \$2,900 (average increase 6.0%), and Year 3 by \$2,500 (average 5.0%). Longevity increases from \$1,950 to \$2,000 in Year 1 (to \$2,100 in Year 2, and to \$2,200 in Year 3). (1) Raymond School's compensation for the lower steps, and on average, is one of the lowest in Rockingham County and is in the lowest fifteen School Districts in the State, so the District has been working to mitigate turnover of newer teachers. The agreement will assist the Town of Raymond in being more competitive, which will support recruiting and retaining teachers. (2)

In addition to salary and benefit changes, there are non-monetary changes in this contract. (3) Six Memorandums of Understanding between the REA and School Board are moved to the contract. Teachers have more time devoted to classroom setup at the beginning of the year, and a 30-minute standard lunch period will be implemented in all three schools. Two requirements are restructured: parent-teacher conferences arranged to better accommodate parent schedules, and teacher planning time at the middle and high schools. The dental insurance benefit would be increased with no extra cost to the District. Supplemental compensation is also restructured for educators covering overnight field trips, mentors, team leaders, and longevity.

The estimated tax impact of this article is \$0.31 per \$1000 assessment, or \$62 on a \$200,000 home. This is the same increase in the last CBA presented to the voters in 2022. (4) The estimated tax increase for the following two years cannot yet be calculated. (5)

A YES vote approves a 3-year contract for members of the REA and funds the first year of the agreement.

A NO vote means that professional staff continue to work under the current contract.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- Agree with the changes in cost items and language
- To increase pay for professional members of REA, per the new pay scale
- To keep the District's contribution to dental benefits from rising

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Objection to any or all terms of the CBA
- Prefer to have a special meeting to address a revised agreement
- Want to maintain the current REA dental insurance

References:

1. Presentation at Budget Committee public hearing 1/7/2025 by Superintendent Terry Leatherman and Business Administrator Marjorie Whitmore, RCTV link, <https://tinyurl.com/2p8xs6m8> and slide presentation link, <https://tinyurl.com/36aazc8n>
2. School Board discussion of CBA, 12/18/2024, RCTV link at timestamp [1:24:42] <https://tinyurl.com/5n8xftup>, pp. 4-5 in Draft Meeting Minutes, <https://tinyurl.com/3f6caakc>
3. Presentation about the REA CBA, discussion begins at [2:09:04], at the School District Deliberative Session, 02/01/2025 RCTV link: <https://tinyurl.com/37zr2jpi>
4. 2022 Raymond VIP Voter Guide, School Article 3, p.3, <https://tinyurl.com/mnhxnx5>, which passed 864-542, <https://tinyurl.com/bdd27fz5>
5. Question at the School Deliberative Session answered by School Board Chairman John Harmon, 02/01/2025, at timestamp [2:24:57] <https://tinyurl.com/37zr2jpi>

School Article 4 – REA Collective Bargaining Agreement

If the CBA for REA described in Article 3 does not pass, this Article will allow the School Board to call one special meeting to address cost items in the CBA between the School Board and REA.

A YES vote allows the School Board to call a special meeting to address cost items in Article 3.

A NO vote does not authorize a special meeting.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To give the School Board the opportunity to renegotiate the contract and then present it to the voters at a special meeting

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To avoid the costs of a special meeting

School Article 5 – Capital Reserve Funds

This article will raise \$549,038 and deposit these funds into three School CRFs to support the School District's 20-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). This plan projects the School District's needs out through 2044-45. The amount this year is an increase of 10% over last year's request of \$499,125.

Equipment, Facilities Maintenance, and Replacement CRF (est. 2006): \$283,698 (30% decrease from \$403,526 last year) would be placed in this CRF, which currently contains \$2,483,518.02. (1) Major projects proposed for the funds in this CRF include heating, cooling, and roofing. See the Capital Improvement Plan Needs Assessment for the Schools, dated October 16, 2024. (2) Expected projects in the 2025-26 school year include air conditioning in the RHS Math Wing, and IHGMS security alarm replacement. (3)

Technology CRF (est. 2008): \$228,094 (294% increase from \$57,832 last year) would be placed in this CRF, which currently contains \$623,578.26. (1) Major projects in the CIP needs assessment include infrastructure hardware/switches and long-term security upgrades. (2)(3)

Food Service Equipment CRF (est. 2006): \$37,246 (very slightly decreased from \$37,767 last year) would be placed in this CRF, which currently contains \$254,021.01. (1) Proposed projects include walk-in refrigerators and freezers. (2)(3)

The estimated tax impact of passing this article is \$0.40 per \$1000 assessment, or \$80 on a \$200,000 home, which is an increase from the previous year of \$0.04 per \$1000 assessment, or \$8 on a \$200,000 home.

A YES vote raises \$549,038 to fund these 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 scheduled replacements & upgrades at the schools
- Consider saving for these items necessary
- To avoid spikes in 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 to finance capital expenditures through other methods such as bonding or borrowing
- Prefer that expenditures determined to be required in 2026 are taken out of existing balances

References:

1. Trustees of the Trust Funds MS-9 Report dated 11/30/2024, School District Funds section. <https://tinyurl.com/yhrac9e5>
2. Capital Improvement Plan Needs Assessment for the Schools, as prepared for the CIP committee. Note that if fully-funded, the needs assessment for 2025-26 would be \$4,950,720. <https://tinyurl.com/3nj8cvd2>
3. SAU Presentation to Budget Committee for 01/07/2025 Public Hearing <https://tinyurl.com/36aazc8n>

School Article 6 – CRFs from Year-End Fund Balance

This article will allow the School Board to take up to \$450,000 from any funds remaining in their Fund Balance as of June 30, 2025 and place it into the Equipment, Facilities Maintenance and Replacement CRF. This is more than the amount requested in last year's Warrant Article, and would allow the School District to save for capital improvement projects this year without additional taxation. The Capital Improvement Planning committee and the governing bodies have stated that the CRFs are underfunded compared to needs. (1) The schools have had warrant articles to save a portion of year-end fund balance for CRFs since 2017. (2) There is no new tax impact.

The School District Equipment, Facilities Maintenance & Replacement CRF (est. in 2006) contains \$2,483,518.02 as of November 30, 2024 (3), and is intended to pay for the maintenance, upgrading, replacement, and/or repair of equipment and facilities in Raymond's schools. Needs in the next few years for this CRF include District heating and cooling, roof at the Iber Holmes Middle School (warranted until 2026), and other smaller projects. The School District's needs assessment for the Capital Improvement Plan lists projects and priorities. (4)

No additional tax impact.

A YES vote will authorize the School District to transfer up to \$450,000 from the fund balance available as of June 30th into these CRFs.

A NO vote will require that all of the year-end fund balance as of June 30th, 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 put aside part of the year-end fund balance for future long-term projects
- To reduce the total amount of funds that may need to be raised in the future through borrowed funds or taxation

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- To return the year-end fund balance to the taxpayers, other than any amount allowed by State law as a contingency fund
- Disagree with the projects to be accomplished

References:

1. The Raymond School Board Budget Summary and Warrant Articles presentation for the 1/7/2025 Budget Committee Public Hearing slideshow <https://tinyurl.com/2b6m4d54> and RCTV recording <https://tinyurl.com/59anbup8>.
2. See Raymond Voter Information Project website for archive of voter guides, www.raymondvip.org
3. CRF balances can be found in the MS-9 reports with the Trustees of the Trust Funds Documents, <https://tinyurl.com/c2v5vsxn>. It should be noted that a portion of the balances for some of the CRFs may be obligated, which means the figures listed do not necessarily represent an amount that is 100% available.
4. School District CIP Plan, 10/16/2024, <https://tinyurl.com/4w7x4jxz>

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 solar
- 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 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, agenda with links to contract documents, <https://tinyurl.com/ykp4hbm2>, 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/rktrtrbf>
4. RSA 32:10, Municipal Budget Law, <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 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. SAU33 2025 Energy Project Video <https://tinyurl.com/4p9r7bvj>

School Article 8 – Citizens Petition

This article is a Citizens Petition that was amended at the School Deliberative Session. (1) It will add \$1 each to the following CRFs (Equipment, Facilities Maintenance and Replacement; Technology; and Food Service Equipment), with the School Board named as agents to expend the funds.

The original petition proposed adding \$100,000 to the three listed CRFs and designated the Municipal Budget Committee as the agents to expend the funds. At the Deliberative Session, the School District attorney clarified that Budget Committees have not been given the legal authority to make expenditure decisions for CRFs, as no statute grants them the power to approve withdrawals or determine the appropriateness of such expenditures. During their Public Hearing, the Budget Committee discussed the Citizens Petition and whether they had the authority to expend the funds. (2)

The tax impact is an increase of \$0.000022 per \$1,000 assessment, or \$0.0004 on a \$200,000 home.

A **YES vote** would raise \$3 for the School CRFs listed.

A **NO vote** would not raise additional funds for the CRFs listed.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To add \$3 to the CRFs listed

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Not to add \$3 to the CRFs listed

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. Budget Committee Public Hearing for Citizens Petition, 01/23/2025, minutes, <https://tinyurl.com/35k47t39>, correspondence between the committee chair and the New Hampshire Municipal Association dated 01/15/2025, <https://tinyurl.com/ynar395a>, and RCTV recording, <https://tinyurl.com/2tsxac3j>

TOWN WARRANT

Town Article 1 – 2025 Town Candidates

Board of Selectmen – Two (2) Open Positions for a 3-year Term

Anthony Clements
Michael Evans
Diane Kolifrath
Dee Luszcz

Budget Committee – Two (2) Open Positions for a 3-year Term

Cody Cramer
Nick Longo

Ethics Committee – Two (2) Open Positions for a 3-year Term

Tami Cole
Christina Vogel

Trustees of the Trust Funds – One (1) Position for a 3-year Term

Mark Desrochers

Library Trustee – One (1) Open Position for a 3-year Term

Jill Galus
Christina Vogel

Planning Board – Two (2) Open Positions for a 3-year Term

Gretchen Gott
John Gulstrom
Barbara Moran

Planning Board – One (1) Open Position for a 2-year Term

Darrell Lowman

Planning Board – One (1) Open Position for a 1-year Term

David Kelley

Cemetery Trustee – One (1) Open Position for a 3-year Term

Joan Page

Town Article 2 – Zoning Amendment 1

This article adds the definition of an Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS) and Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) to Article 13 of the Zoning Ordinance, and adds regulations for the installation of high-powered DC (direct current) chargers. (1) Also, Article 14.2 is amended to allow AC (alternating current) charging stations in all zones if for personal use and not as a means of income, with required permitting by the Building Inspector. AC charging stations in commercial, industrial, retail use, for profit and/or DC EVCSs and EVSE require Planning Board approval, and are prohibited in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (2) or in any floodplain. Also, Article 5.2.10 is amended to reflect the prohibition, in the Groundwater Conservation District, of DC charging stations, as well as AC charging stations in any commercial, industrial, or “for profit” use.

Article 14.2.13 was approved in 2023 to allow EVCSs in any zoning

district in any parking lot containing six or more parking spaces, to require that DC charging stations have Planning Board approval, and to allow AC charging stations with Building Inspector approval. (3)

This amendment adds definitions for EVCSs and EVSE, but prohibits use in the Groundwater Conservation District unless it is AC and for personal use and not as a means of income. (4)

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To stay current with electric vehicle charging and supply equipment definitions
- To limit certain charging stations from the Groundwater Overlay District or floodplain
- To ensure Raymond’s Groundwater resources are protected from fire suppression efforts by prohibiting commercial chargers in Groundwater Conservation District

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Consider this article too restrictive for commercial uses, when compared to the overall likelihood of an EV fire (5)
- AC residential charging stations are allowed in Groundwater Conservation District (2), but not for commercial, industrial, retail or “for profit”
- Want to permit the charging stations in all zones

References:

1. Town of Raymond Zoning Ordinance, last amended October 2024, <https://tinyurl.com/wxtmdft6>
2. Groundwater Overlay District in Zoning Map B, dated April 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/mry24xv4>
3. 2023 Town Voting Results, Article 5, <https://tinyurl.com/2bj7jmwy>
4. Public Hearing on Zoning Amendments, Planning Board meeting, 01/23/2025, timestamp [6:00], <https://tinyurl.com/2tdnu3ss>
5. Deliberative Session, 02/08/2025, timestamp [12:00], <https://tinyurl.com/5dbc5csa>

Town Article 3 – Zoning Amendment 2

This Zoning Amendment would add Subsection 15.4 with a summary table to list the area and dimensional requirements for setbacks and no clearing buffer zones together in one table, with notes to reference the subsections where each requirement is already listed. Nothing is new in the table, as it only consolidates the requirements in one place for convenience. (1)(2) These area and dimensional requirements are still listed where they already occur in the Ordinance. (3)

A **YES vote** would add the summary table to existing information in the Zoning Ordinance, while not changing any of the regulations.

A **NO vote** would leave the Zoning Ordinance as is.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- Agree that a summary table to put all Setbacks and No Clearing Buffer Zone area and dimensional requirements in one place is valuable
- To make the Zoning Ordinance easier to use

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Having an additional summary table means more housekeeping for updates if any of the values need to be amended
- Do not want to add the summary table to the Zoning Ordinance

References:

1. Public Hearing on Zoning Amendments, Planning Board meeting, 01/23/2025, timestamp [21:52], <https://tinyurl.com/2tdnu3ss>
2. Deliberative, 02/08/2025, [28:00], <https://tinyurl.com/5dbc5csa>
3. Town of Raymond Zoning Ordinance, last amended October 2024, <https://tinyurl.com/wxtmdft6>

Town Article 4 – Zoning Amendment 3

This article adds a category to the Allowed Uses Table in Article 14.2 of the Zoning Ordinance (1), so that if a proposed use is not specifically identified in the tables, the Planner and/or Building Inspector may require a non-binding design review or conceptual design review with the Planning Board to select the listed use which most closely resembles the proposed use in impact and intensity. It also adds subsection 14.2.12.2 to cover cases where no listed use is reasonably construed to closely resemble the proposed use; at that point the Planning Board may determine that there is no listing for the proposed use and therefore it is not permitted in any zoning district. (2) (3)

A **YES vote** would amend the Zoning Ordinance to cover cases where a proposed use is not specifically identified in the tables, allowing additional review, but possibly not permitting the use in any zone.

A **NO vote** would leave the Zoning Ordinance unchanged.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To allow the Planning Board to examine the proposed use and select a listed use that closely resembles it in impact and intensity
- To allow the Planning Board to not permit the proposed use in any zoning district if it determines there is no listed use closely resembling the proposed use

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Do not want to add the steps to select a listed use, if the proposed use is not specifically identified in the tables
- Are not concerned about proposed uses that do not resemble any listed uses

References:

1. Town of Raymond Zoning Ordinance, last amended October 2024, <https://tinyurl.com/wxtmdft6>
2. Public Hearing on Zoning Amendments, Planning Board meeting, 01/23/2025, timestamp [37:25], <https://tinyurl.com/2tdnu3ss>
3. Deliberative, 02/08/2025, [30:19], <https://tinyurl.com/5dbc5csa>

Town Article 5 – Zoning Amendment 4

This article amends Subsection 15.3.2 of the Zoning Ordinance (1) for all lots in Zone G, Conservation District (2), requiring a minimum wetland setback of 75 feet. Raymond’s Conservation District, described in Zoning Article 4.9.1, 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.” The Planning Board would like to further protect the groundwater, particularly near wellheads and aquifers. (3)

It effectively removes the language, “except a minimum wetland setback of 25 feet shall apply to lots that contain an approved structure with a drinking well or municipal water hookup and an approved working septic system on record at date of adoption on record as of March 14, 2023.” This was approved by the voters in 2023. (4)

A **YES vote** would require a 75-foot wetland setback in Conservation District Zone G.

A **NO vote** would leave the Zoning Ordinance unchanged.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To make wetland buffers consistent for Zone G lots, bringing all to a 75-foot minimum
- To restrict developers from building major developments within the proper wetland setbacks, which may protect property values and rights of homeowners

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Think it is unreasonable for residents with existing structures in Zone G to meet the more restrictive setback, potentially decreasing their property value, reducing buildable area on their lots, and possibly preventing planned additions or added time and cost associated with the Zoning Board of Adjustment (5)
- To explore other options to protect water sources from density of development near wetlands in Zone G

References:

1. Town of Raymond Zoning Ordinance, last amended October 2024, <https://tinyurl.com/wxtmdft6>
2. Groundwater Overlay District in Zoning Map B, dated April 2021, <https://tinyurl.com/mry24xv4>
3. Public Hearing on Zoning Amendments, Planning Board meeting, 01/23/2025, timestamp [41:14], <https://tinyurl.com/2tdnu3ss>
4. 2023 Town Voting Results, Article 7, <https://tinyurl.com/2bj7jmwy>
5. Deliberative, 02/08/2025, time [32:37], <https://tinyurl.com/5dbc5csa>

Town Article 6 – Source Water Capacity Improvement Project (DWSRF Loan)

This article allows \$1,000,000 to be raised by bonds or notes for preliminary and final design of water capacity improvements for the Town water system. The Town is still under an Administrative Order by NH Department of Environmental Services (“DES”), which requires the Town to address capacity deficiencies in the Town water system. This will help with the Corrective Action Plan the Town is currently under. (1)

If this article is approved, the BOS would be authorized to apply for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan, which would include a low interest rate. Because the amount is \$1,000,000, a public hearing was required and held by the BOS. (2) There is no forgiveness on this loan, just the low interest available for this purpose. Town Manager Ken Robichaud indicated the Town sought and has preliminary approval through the pre-application process with DES this past year, and the interest rate was 2.88% on a 15-year loan. (3)(4)(5) The actual interest rate won’t be assigned unless and until the legislative body passes this article and the town submits a Final Application to DES. (4)(5)

The Town Manager indicated that the BOS could have the payment come out of water revenue and water fund balance, and that future tax impact would be in 2026 and beyond, which is not possible to calculate now. This loan would be for the preliminary and final design of improvements to the town wells and treatment plant, which could include additional capacity, redundancy, filtering, *etc.* The construction will need to be funded separately in the future. (5)

If this Warrant Article fails to pass, then the Town will need to reapply for funding in 2025. Pre-applications are due by 5/30/2025. The CAP would not be violated if this warrant article doesn’t pass, but it would cut out an entire year of work to meet the 11/30/2029 deadline established by NH DES. (6)

There is no tax impact for 2025. Because the article involves a bond, it requires a 3/5 ballot majority.

A **YES Vote** would permit the BOS to negotiate bond or note terms and spend up to \$1,000,000 for a preliminary and final design of source water capacity improvements for the town water system.

A **NO Vote** would not allow the BOS to borrow these funds, or spend funds on design of source water capacity improvements.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To apply for a DWSRF loan, which provides low interest, and spend these funds on this state-required design of water capacity improvements
- Funding for this project will help the Town comply with the Administrative Order and plan the required water supply capacity and treatment improvements
- To allow the BOS to negotiate a bond or note, and to determine the rate of interest

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Uncertainty or unfamiliarity with the NH-DES DWSRF loan funding process
- Unknown interest rates on a potential bond or note
- Would prefer that the work be paid for by some other method, such as capital reserves

References:

1. NH Dept. of Environmental Services, Revised and Amended Administrative Order No. 23-004 WD, 4/26/2024, Source Water Capacity Deficiency, see pp. 7-9, <https://tinyurl.com/4tfsat2k>
2. Public Hearing, BOS, 01/22/2025, p. 3, <https://tinyurl.com/2s3rdca3>, RCTV at timestamp [4:18], <https://tinyurl.com/4wnhdsed>
3. BOS meeting, 12/16/2024, time [10:28], <https://tinyurl.com/yhba3umz>
4. How the DWSRF Works, EPA, <https://tinyurl.com/4caut7w9> and NH DES DWSRF, <https://tinyurl.com/4k2vntsx>, and Interest Rates for DWSRF effective 08/01/2024 are 0.96% (5yr. term), 1.92% (10yr. term), 2.88% (15yr.), 3.072% (20yr.), <https://tinyurl.com/yYu65taz>
5. Budget Committee meeting, 01/02/2025, at timestamp [24:35], <https://tinyurl.com/4x7dm4yh>
6. BOS Recommendations, 2025 Voter Information Guide, 02/05/2025, <https://tinyurl.com/4cp63hdd>

Town Article 7 – Operating Budget

This article asks the voters to raise and appropriate a 2025 Operating Budget of \$10,628,322 (1), which includes a Town component of \$9,813,464 and a Water Department component of \$814,858. The 2025 Town component represents an increase of \$243,190 or 2.54% over 2024, which was \$9,570,274. The 2025 Water component represents a decrease of \$80,563 or 9% under 2024, which was \$895,421. If this motion fails, the default budget will be \$10,534,633 (2), which is \$93,689 or 0.88% less than the proposed budget, with the Town budget being reduced by \$73,914 or 0.75% and the Water budget being reduced by \$19,775 or 2.4%. The reason that the default budget is \$93,689 less than the 2025 Operating Budget, while the 2025 Operating Budget is \$162,627 higher than the 2024 Operating Budget, is that the default budget includes monies required to meet obligations that are the result of previous actions of the Town or legal obligations.

Notable areas of increase by budget line include (3):

- Town (Executive/HR/Finance): increasing \$85,210 (11.75%) to total \$810,362 which is \$18,265 over the default
- Cemetery: increasing \$60,249 (539%) to total \$71,429 which is \$8,647 over the default
- GGB: increasing \$45,470 (17.89%) to total \$299,646 which is \$26,798 over the default
- Assessing: increasing \$15,812 (15.44%) to total \$118,221 which is \$11,593 over the default
- Fire: increasing \$33,802 (4.13%) to total \$851,322 which is \$45,329 over the default
- Highway: increasing \$92,754 (11.59%) to total \$892,974 which is \$50,511 over the default
- DPW Fleet: increasing \$27,724 (21.62%) to total \$155,967 which is \$9,500 over the default
- Recreation: increasing \$29,047 (7.42%) to total \$420,525 which is \$5,241 over the default
- Insurance: increasing \$104,204 (7.26%) to total \$1,539,607 which is the default amount

Notable areas of decrease by budget line include (3):

- Elections: decreasing \$26,542 (55.66%) to total \$21,147 which is the default amount
- Regional Associations: decreasing \$10,478 (51.16%) to total \$10,001 which is \$10,478 under the default
- Police: decreasing \$66,157 (2.65%) to total \$2,431,060 which is \$9,847 over the default
- Building: decreasing \$24,591 (22.60%) to total \$84,241 which is \$601 over the default

- DPW Admin: decreasing \$62,075 (27.50%) to total \$163,633 which is \$3,492 under the default
- Transfer: decreasing \$25,090 (30.51%) to total \$57,146 which is \$29,933 under the default
- Library: decreasing \$81,265 (23.61%) to total \$262,885 which is \$91,615 under the default
- Trash cost for the schools that was passed to the School District

The Estimated 2025 Tax Impact of the Operating Budget is \$5.18 per thousand of valuation, or \$1,036 on a \$200,000 home. The Estimated 2025 Tax Impact of the Default Budget is \$5.13 per thousand of valuation, or \$1,026 on a \$200,000 home.

A **YES vote** would approve the 2025 Operating Budget, and allow the Town to pursue specific projects and staffing targets.

A **NO vote** would set the budget at the default funding level, and allow the Governing Body to hold a special meeting to deliberate on a revised operating budget.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- Consider the difference between the 2025 Operating Budget and the Default Budget to be small dollar-wise, and the Operating Budget includes adjustments to certain budget items that would not take effect in the Default Budget (4)
- The Town developed the Operating Budget as a “bottom-up” budget which allowed for detailed consideration of each budget line and, ultimately, a 2.51% overall increase.

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Default Budget is roughly \$65,000 lower and would alleviate some of the tax burden
- Don't agree with the adjustments to certain budget lines resulting from the Town's budgeting process
- Not satisfied with the results of the vote at Deliberative Session, and would like the Governing Body to hold a special meeting on the Town Operating Budget

References:

1. 2025 Proposed Town Budget (MS-737) <https://tinyurl.com/j4k3nbkn>
2. 2025 Default Town Budget (MS-DTB) <https://tinyurl.com/57yypzza>
3. 2025 BOS Approved Budget with Line Items and Two Years of Historical Data, 11/20/2024, <https://tinyurl.com/bde4mv3a>
4. Town presentation to Budget Committee, 1/14/2025 Public Hearing, Town manager Ken Robichaud and Finance Director Julie Jenks, 01/14/2025, <https://tinyurl.com/5a82vz9p>, RCTV, <https://tinyurl.com/yxwn4x5f>

Town Article 8 – Capital Reserve Funds Appropriations

This article raises \$600,000 from the UFB to distribute among five previously-established CRFs. This is up 233% from last year's appropriation of \$185,000 across four of the CRFs, which was raised by regular appropriation. (1) These accounts allow the town to save for specific capital improvements identified in the Capital Improvement Plan, which the town prepares and the Capital Improvement Planning committee normally reviews and makes recommendations. Items in the plan are typically large expenditures for items with longer life span (e.g., replace membrane roof, replace ladder truck). (2) The following CRFs will be funded as listed below, with the BOS as agents to expend.

- \$150,000 for Highway Heavy Equipment (est. 1999, Dec. 2024 avail. bal. \$213,208) – up from \$0 last year
- \$50,000 for Highway Department Vehicle Replacement (est. 2000, Dec. 2024 avail. bal. \$159,401) – up from \$50,000 last year
- \$250,000 for Fire Department Equipment and Vehicle (est. 2002, Dec. 2024 avail. bal. \$726,163) – up from \$50,000 last year
- \$100,000 for Town Office Technology (est. 2005, Dec. 2024 avail. bal. \$34,131) – up from \$60,000 last year
- \$50,000 for Parks Equipment & Facilities (est. 2008, Dec. 2024 avail. bal. \$61,983) – up from \$25,000 last year (2)(3)

The BOS committed to increase savings in these CRFs. The CIP committee recommended to town and school to increase appropriations into CRFs, because the CIP plans are underfunded. (4)

The BOS intends to fund this from the UFB, so no additional tax dollars are needed.

A **YES vote** would approve moving the funds into the named CRFs.

A **NO vote** would not allow the raising of these funds.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- Consider that these appropriations are in the best interest of the Town (5) saving over time to avoid spikes in the tax rate or the cost of bonding for anticipated large expenditures
- To support the Town's previously identified long-range needs, as outlined in the CIP, including the authority to collect impact fees from developers

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Prefer that funds come from another source such as the Operating Budget, bond or loan

- Prefer not to take that much from the UFB (6)

References:

1. 2024 Raymond VIP Voter Guide shows what was added last year, see Town Article 15, <https://tinyurl.com/y9ewvbyx>
2. CIP Rules and Procedures, 10/08/2024, <https://tinyurl.com/y67xh4kk>
3. CRF balances were reported in the Board of Selectmen Voter Information Guide, <https://tinyurl.com/4cp63hdd>
4. Trustees of the Trust Funds Reports, <https://tinyurl.com/2s4d2zxz>
5. Letter from CIP Committee to Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, School Board, Superintendent, 12/09/24, <https://tinyurl.com/2s3sfcjm>
6. Budget Committee, Town Manager and Finance Director discuss the current UFB \$5.3M, Budget Committee Public Hearing for the Town budget, 01/14/2025, RCTV video at timestamp [19:10], <https://tinyurl.com/yjxe9km8>.

Town Article 9 – Town Road Revitalization Capital Reserve Fund

This article will add \$150,000 to the Road Revitalization CRF (1) to support the Town's five-year strategic initiative to upgrade and render safe the Town's road infrastructure systems. These funds are to be combined with those in the Road Reconstruction fund (Warrant Article 7) with the goal of returning Town Roads to a maintainable condition. This sum of \$150,000 is to come from the UFB and no amount will be raised through new taxation. Expenditures from this fund must be approved by the BOS. There is no new tax impact.

A **YES vote** would allow the Town to apply \$150,000 from the UFB to a CRF for road maintenance.

A **NO vote** will keep the road funding as it currently is, raised by annual Warrant Articles and State funding.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To increase the amount appropriated for annual road maintenance with an expectation to expedite work completion
- Think that current annual budgetary funding for road maintenance is inadequate

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Disagree with using the monies from the UFB for road projects
- Prefer to fund road maintenance through the operating budget or other source

References:

1. Trustees of the Trust Funds Reports, <https://tinyurl.com/2s4d2zxz>

Town Article 10 – Water Department CRF Appropriations

This article will raise \$210,120 for the purpose of funding the following Water Department CRFs, with the BOS as agents to expend. This is 2% more than last year's appropriation of \$206,000, and the amounts for each CRF are each 2% more than last year. (1)

- \$52,530 for Construct, Repair & Maintain Town Water Treatment Facility (est. 2000, Dec. 2024 avail. bal. \$267,274) – up from \$51,500
- \$47,275 for Water System Infrastructure (est. 2000, Dec. 2024 avail. bal. \$206,888) – up from \$46,350
- \$105,065 for Water Storage Facilities (est. 2000, Dec. 2024 avail. bal. \$159,315) – up from \$103,000
- \$3,150 for Water Dept. Utility Vehicle (est. 2001, Dec. 2024 avail. bal. \$ 25,346) – up from \$3,090
- \$2,100 for New Well Site Acquisitions (est. 2005, Dec. 2024 avail. bal. \$ 73,059) – up from \$2,060 (2)(3)

There is no tax impact as these funds come from revenue from municipal water users.

A **YES vote** would approve adding \$210,120 into the Water Department .

A **NO vote** would not allow the raising of these funds.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To save for future expenses related to the municipal water system
- To avoid having to borrow money for large ticket items for the Water Department

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

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

References:

1. 2024 Raymond VIP Voter Guide shows what was added last year, see Town Article 17, <https://tinyurl.com/y9ewvbyx>
2. CRF balances were reported in the Board of Selectmen Voter Information Guide, <https://tinyurl.com/4cp63hdd>
3. Trustees of the Trust Funds Reports, <https://tinyurl.com/2s4d2zxz>

Town Article 11 – Shim and Overlay Special Revenue Fund

This article raises up to \$275,000 for road construction purposes by withdrawing existing funds from the Shim and Overlay SRF. The Shim and Overlay SRF was created to hold funds that can be saved year to year and used as desired when Raymond Town roads need to be rehabilitated. Shim and Overlay is a method of revitalizing a road that only has minor deterioration by applying a new coat of asphalt, the depth of which is determined dependent on the situation.

This article authorizes the withdrawal of \$275,000 from the Department of Public Works Shim and Overlay SRF (1), which was previously provided by the State and earmarked for the Shim and Overlay SRF. The funds are non-lapsing but only until the work is complete or December 31, 2027, whichever comes first. This SRF is funded by the quarterly Highway Block Grant payments the Town receives. The Town estimates receiving \$275,000 of NH State Highway Block Grant funds in 2025. The current balance in this fund is \$615,373. (2) There is no net impact to the Town's Operating Budget because NH State Highway Block Grant revenue funds this SRF.

A YES vote authorizes \$275,000 withdrawal from Shim and Overlay SRF.

A NO vote means that funds cannot be withdrawn from the Shim and Overlay SRF.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To reduce the number of roads in need of rehabilitation
- To repair roads without utilizing new tax dollars

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Disagreement with the projects on which the money will be spent

References:

1. Since Raymond's annual Operating Budget cannot accumulate funds year to year, SRFs must be used when the Town needs to complete a project over several years. Voters must approve all withdrawals.
2. BOS Recommendations, Voter Information Guide, 02/05/2025, <https://tinyurl.com/4cp63hdd>

Town Article 12 – Road Reconstruction Projects

This article raises \$250,000 for road reconstruction projects, withdrawing the funds from the UFB. These funds can be utilized until December 31, 2027, or until the road reconstruction work has been completed, whichever comes first. (1) The Department of Public Works will solicit bids, prioritize, and schedule road reconstruction projects. (2) There is no tax impact.

A YES vote allows the Town to use \$250,000 from the UFB to continue some of the most needed road reconstruction projects.

A NO vote will not use these funds for road reconstruction.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To allow the Town to rebuild certain roads instead of continuing with temporary repairs
- To try to decrease the percentage of road miles in need of reconstruction

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Disagree with using UFB for road projects
- To fund road repairs with State money only

References:

1. RSA 32:7-VI: gives towns the authority to create non-lapsing funds
2. BOS Recommendations, Voter Information Guide, 02/05/2025, <https://tinyurl.com/4cp63hdd>

Town Article 13 – Rescind & Discontinue Scholarship Fund

This article eliminates the Town of Raymond Scholarship Fund. This fund was created in 2000 by Warrant Article 23 to award scholarship(s) for a Raymond High School senior or any Raymond town resident attending their first year of college. Since 2000, this article has passed every year, last year 981-273. (1)(2) It is being discontinued at the recommendation of the NH Department of Revenue Administration. Current balance in this fund is \$3,031. (3) Scholarships awarded in June would normally be paid in the January timeframe once those students provide proof of enrollment and grades. Any funds remaining would be transferred to the general fund.

A YES vote would terminate the fund and the awarding of high school senior scholarships.

A NO vote would keep the fund active, but the money currently in it would remain unused. (4)

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- Follow the state's recommendation to end this practice
- Think that scholarships should not be awarded with tax money

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Keep the CRF, even though the Town is unable to proceed with awarding scholarship money
- Question why the DRA now is recommending to end the practice after 24 years

References:

1. 2024 VIP Voter Guide, Article 27, <https://tinyurl.com/y9ewvbyx>
2. 2024 Town of Raymond Voting Results, <https://tinyurl.com/4mzpw9cu>
3. 2025 Recommendations, BOS Voter Information, 02/05/2025, <https://tinyurl.com/4cp63hdd>
4. Question posed by Ryan Gartley, Budget Committee, to Ken Robichaud, Town Manager, 01/02/2025, [1:16:00], <https://tinyurl.com/3nc8ekn6>

Town Article 14 – Contingency Fund

This article will establish a contingency fund as allowed by State statute in the amount of \$98,087, taken from the UFB. The fund is to be used for unexpected expenses, and the BOS is required to prepare a detailed report of those expenditures. Funds that are not used will lapse back to the UFB at the end of the year. (1) There is no tax impact.

A YES vote will create a contingency fund of \$98,087 for unanticipated or catastrophic events that are not provided for in the Operating Budget.

A NO vote would not create a contingency fund and would require the use of other funds to deal with unexpected expenses.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To have funds designated and readily available for an unexpected occurrence

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Prefer that monies come from another source such as the Operating Budget or disaster relief

References:

1. A contingency fund was first created by the voters in 2019, but according to Finance Director Julie Jenks, these funds have not been used and have lapsed each year, with the exception of 2023. See comments by BOS member Rani Merryman and Finance Director Julie Jenks at Public Hearing for the Town Warrant at the Budget Committee, 01/14/2025, timestamp [1:45:06], <https://tinyurl.com/yxwn4x5f>, and Julie Jenks at Budget Committee meeting, 01/02/2025, timestamp [1:10:00], <https://tinyurl.com/3nc8ekn6>

Town Article 15 – Stormwater Planning Project (CWSRF Loan)

This article allows \$100,000 to be raised by bond for stormwater planning work relative to management of the municipal storm drain system. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) (1) is a Federal and State partnership that provides communities with low-cost financing or loans of up to \$100,000 to plan for and manage their municipal storm drain system.

This article will grant the BOS permission to apply for a bond or note and disburse funds for Town stormwater planning or management (or eligible projects as needed) as permitted in NH RSA 33:3. (2) The amount of \$100,000 of funding being requested is via the NH Department of Environmental Services CWSRF loan program. This program typically includes 100% principal forgiveness for stormwater planning or eligible projects, which means the town would not have to pay back the \$100,000 principal amount and would only pay a low rate of interest. However, principal forgiveness cannot be guaranteed until the town submits a final application and enters into a loan agreement with NHDES. (1)(3)(4)

Raymond became a regulated small MS4 ("Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System") community in 2012. (5) MS4 process and requirements are part of the EPA Clean Water Act. (6) One requirement is education, and the Town includes educational resources on the website (e.g., pet waste, fertilizer and lawn care, yard waste, and septic system maintenance). (7) Also, the Planning Board Subdivision Regulations as amended in 2019 incorporate MS4 stormwater management regulations to be reviewed by the Planning Board as part of the Flood Planning and Mitigation Chapter of the new Master Plan. (8)

The BOS has indicated a possible project they might use the loan for is monitoring, adjusting and correcting higher than acceptable levels of nitrogen in a local lake. (9)

Tax impact for 2025 is unknown at this time as funds would first need to be borrowed or bonded.

A YES Vote would permit the BOS to negotiate bond or note terms and spend up to \$100,000 for stormwater planning or eligible projects, and secure funding for the Town to implement activities that are required by the MS4 permit.

A NO Vote would not allow the BOS to borrow these funds, or spend funds on stormwater planning or eligible projects.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To apply for a CWSRF loan, and spend these funds on stormwater planning or eligible projects. The Town may not be required to pay back the loan amount borrowed up to \$100,000, with only a low rate of interest being paid by the Town
- Funding for this project will help the Town comply with the MS4 permit requirements and avoid fines being issued by the Environmental Protection Agency for non-compliance
- To allow the BOS to negotiate a bond or note, and to determine the rate of interest

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Uncertainty or unfamiliarity with the CWSRF loan funding process
- Unknown interest rates on a potential bond or note
- Unfamiliarity with MS4 permit requirements
- Would prefer that the work be paid for by some other method, such as the operating budget or capital reserves

References:

1. NH DES Clean Water State Revolving Fund, <https://tinyurl.com/427v55by>
2. RSA 33:3 Municipal Finance Act, <https://tinyurl.com/rdmrvk9c>
3. MS4 Resources, <https://tinyurl.com/ywzmb7k>
4. NH DES Stormwater, <https://www.des.nh.gov/water/stormwater>
5. NH Small MS4 General Permit, <https://tinyurl.com/3smxsd98>
6. Town Manager's Report in 2022 states, "... the Town of Raymond, in 2021, was issued an Administrative Order from the federal EPA for failing to begin the implementation of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) which is, very basically stated, the regulation of storm-water and surface water quality to ensure that water bodies are protected from run-off that contains contaminants (fertilizers, pet waste, brake dust, gas, diesel fuel, and oil leaks on roadways)." See p. 9 of 2022 Town of Raymond Annual Report, <https://tinyurl.com/45msnrty>
7. Town of Raymond MS4 Information Resources, <https://tinyurl.com/2j9jz7f9>
8. Town of Raymond Hazard Mitigation Plan, dated 02/28/2022, <https://tinyurl.com/28dtxdw6>
9. BOS Recommendations, 2025 Voter Information Guide, 02/05/2025, <https://tinyurl.com/4cp63hdd>

Town Article 16 – Waste Disposal Special Revenue Fund (Fund 18)

This article allows the Town to access up to \$50,000 already in Fund 18, which was created for the purpose of waste disposal. It does not raise any additional funds. Monies in Fund 18 come from Casella Waste System lease payments to operate the Transfer Station, and from the sale of Transfer Station permits. For residents with a permit, the Transfer Station accepts recyclables and reduced pricing on construction debris disposal. (1) Funds are still needed to cover the costs of the Transfer Station. This article requires voter approval each year in order to legally access the funds. There is no tax impact.

A YES vote allows the Town to access the funds already set aside in Fund 18 for the costs associated with the Transfer Station and permit program.

A NO vote will require that any costs associated with 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 the already established Fund 18
- To continue the recycling program at the Transfer Station

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Prefer to pay for costs associated with the Transfer Station by means other than this Special Revenue Fund
- Prefer fees be raised at the Transfer Station to cover those costs

References:

1. Raymond Department of Public Works Trash & Recycling webpage, <https://tinyurl.com/4kr7nck6>
2. Cost of resident permit for the Transfer Station in 2025 is \$42, <https://tinyurl.com/5fmccwzy>

Town Article 17 – Utility Reassessment Settlement CRF

This article establishes a new CRF for the purpose of utility reassessment settlement, and funds it with \$200,000 from the UFB. Last year the town voted to move \$104,000 from the UFB to the previously-established one-time or cyclical procurement CRF for the purpose of paying the second payment to correct what was ruled to be the Town's overcharge for the tax assessment of utility poles, a situation that affected 70 other towns as well. (1)(2)(3) The Town was aware of the payment amount for the 2024 utility settlement and therefore utilized the cyclical procurement CRF.

Another lawsuit was filed for subsequent years and the towns are waiting for the outcome. The BOS aims to prepare for any potential reimbursements the Town may be liable for, as they anticipate these costs and expect them to be significant. To reduce future impact, the Town has contracted with a new utility assessor. The BOS must vote to approve the use of these funds, as they are listed as the agents to expend. (4)

There is no new tax impact because it comes from funds already collected and in the UFB.

A YES vote will establish the Utility Reassessment Settlement CRF and adds \$200,000 to it from the UFB.

A NO vote does not establish the new CRF, nor fund the utility reassessment settlement with money from the UFB this year.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To save for the expected next settlement without additional taxation
- To meet an expected legal obligation

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Don't want to save for this until more information is available

from the courts

- Disagree with using UFB for this type of settlement

References:

1. BOS meeting 12/16/2024 at timestamp [1:05:21], <https://tinyurl.com/yhba3umz>
2. 2024 VIP Voter Guide, Article 31, <https://tinyurl.com/y9ewvbyx>
3. 2024 Town of Raymond Election Results, Article 31 passed 951-273, <https://tinyurl.com/4mzpw9cu>
4. BOS Recommendations, 2025 Voter Information Guide, 02/05/2025: <https://tinyurl.com/4cp63hdd>

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 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/4hvzrr69>
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. 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

Town Article 19 – Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund

This article puts \$100,000 from the UFB into the Revaluation CRF, which was established in 2002 to save for the state-required revaluation of all properties in the Town which is mandated "as often as" every five years and last completed in 2021. The Revaluation CRF has a balance of \$3,538.55 in the most recent Trustees of the Trust Fund report. (1) Revaluation alone doesn't mean that taxes will go up. The next year's tax rate is calculated based on the net valuation of all properties. The property tax burden is proportioned according to the valuation of each property. Simply put, if all properties change at the same proportion, then at the same tax rate, the tax burden of each would remain unchanged. If a property is substantially improved, it is likely to increase the value of the property. During the revaluation process, if a property has dropped in value proportionally compared to other properties, it would therefore be taxed at a smaller share, using the same tax rate. (2) There is no tax impact because funds are to come from the UFB.

A YES vote would add \$100,000 to the Revaluation CRF.

A NO vote would not add funds to the Revaluation CRF.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- Recognize the need to save for the state-mandated revaluation that is required in 2026

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Prefer that the town fund the revaluation some other way
- Disagree with the State's unfunded mandate to revalue properties at least every five years

References:

1. See Trustees of the Trust Funds page on the town website for monthly reports of principal, income and value of all town and school CRFs. Amount cited above for the Revaluation CRF is from the MS-9 report dated 11/30/2024 on p.11, <https://tinyurl.com/c2v5vsxn>
2. For more information about revaluations in New Hampshire, see "Legal Q&A: Revaluation: What is it? And how does it work?" on the NH Municipal Association webpage, <https://tinyurl.com/454bupv2>

Town Article 20 – Citizens Petition

This article is a Citizens Petition to raise \$750 for the purchase of wreaths to be used at Memorial Day and Veterans Day services held within the Town.

Last year, the Town did not fund the wreaths for the Memorial Day ceremonies (1)(2), and the cost was later covered by donation. Memorial Day ceremonies last year included a parade with wreaths laid at the flagpole at each of the Old Pine Grove and New Pine Grove cemeteries, one cast in the Lamprey River from the Epping Street bridge, and one laid at the foot of the Civil War monument at the Town Common. This has been a tradition, with the American Legion Post 90 and VFW Post 4479 organizing the ceremonies in recent years, and the Town has typically paid the cost of the wreaths. (3)(4)

The Town, VFW, and American Legion wanted to have a Memorandum of Understanding for the responsibilities and any cost for these ceremonies. (3) The BOS stated concern regarding this Citizen Petition as “this may fall into the same category the DRA had cautioned the Town as the best practices [ensuring] that all expenditures should be paid for services or goods and should not be received by individuals or organizations” (4) and concern that the language is not precise about who will use the wreaths and whether they will remain on Town property. (1)

The Estimated 2025 Tax Impact is an additional \$0.00055 per thousand of valuation, or \$0.11 on a \$200,000 home.

A YES vote would raise \$750 for the purpose of wreaths for Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies.

A NO vote would not raise additional funds for wreaths.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- Consider these ceremonies patriotic and a benefit for the entire Town
- Small amount of money to honor veterans

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- Don't want taxpayer funds to be used for this purpose, preferring another method of funding such as private donations
- Want a process in place to organize and fund the ceremonies for Memorial Day and Veterans Day

References:

1. Public Hearing for Town Warrant Articles, Budget Committee, 01/14/2025, minutes p. 9, <https://tinyurl.com/5a82vz9p> RCTV link at timestamp [3:04:31], <https://tinyurl.com/yxwn4x5f>
2. BOS meeting, 07/29/2024, minutes pp. 1-19, <https://tinyurl.com/5edpxdxt> and RCTV at timestamp [01:37 - 40:50] <https://tinyurl.com/42vzk5fu>
3. BOS meeting, 08/12/2024, minutes p. 26, <https://tinyurl.com/4m3cbubd>, and RCTV video at timestamp [1:38:55- 2:33:40] <https://tinyurl.com/yceysnrwm>
4. BOS Recommendations, 2025 Voter Information Guide, 02/05/2025, <https://tinyurl.com/4cp63hdd>

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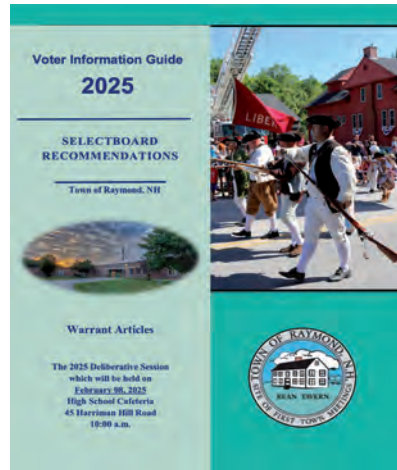
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Raymond VIP, P.O. Box 813, Raymond

GO VOTE!

Tuesday March 11, 2025, Iber Holmes Gove Middle School, 7am - 7pm

2025 Raymond Voter Information Project - For Updates see www.raymondvip.org

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

2025 Town Warrant Articles

- 1 Town Officials
- 2 Zoning Amendment 1 Yes No
- 3 Zoning Amendment 2 Yes No
- 4 Zoning Amendment 3 Yes No
- 5 Zoning Amendment 4 Yes No
- 6 Source Water Capacity Improvement Project (DWSRF Loan) Yes No
- 7 Operating Budget Yes No
- 8 CRFs Appropriations Yes No
- 9 Town Road Revitalization CRF Yes No
- 10 Water Department CRFs Appropriations Yes No
- 11 Shim and Overlay SRF Yes No
- 12 Road Reconstruction Projects Yes No
- 13 Rescind & Discontinue Scholarship Fund Yes No
- 14 Contingency Fund Yes No
- 15 Stormwater Planning Project (CWSRF Loan) Yes No
- 16 Waste Disposal Special Revenue Fund (Fund 18) Yes No
- 17 Utility Assessment Appeals Settlement CRF Yes No
- 18 Rescind and Revoke the Property Tax Exemption for Solar Energy Yes No
- 19 Revaluation CRF Yes No
- 20 Citizens Petition Yes No

2025 School Warrant Articles

- 1 School Officials
- 2 Operating Budget Yes No
- 3 REA Collective Bargaining Agreement Yes No
- 4 REA Collective Bargaining Agreement Special Meeting Yes No
- 5 CRFs Appropriations Yes No
- 6 CRF from Year-End Fund Balance Yes No
- 7 Citizens Petition Yes No
- 8 Citizens Petition Yes No

Notes
