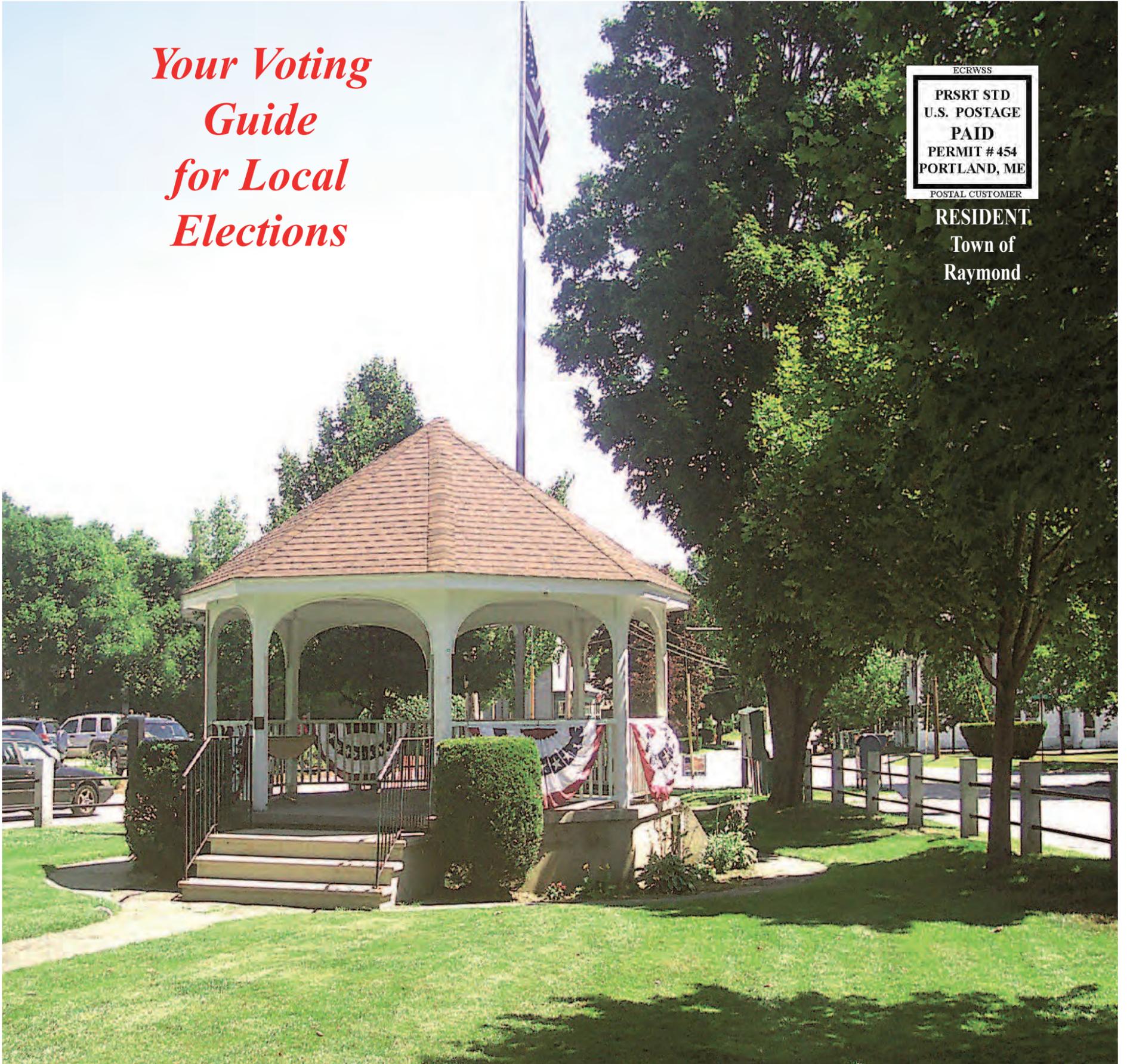


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Guide  
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RAYMOND

# *Voter Information*

PROJECT

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

~ Raymond VIP Bylaws

# 2024

# RAYMOND

# Voter Information

## PROJECT

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Welcome to the 15th 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.

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

Sincerely,  
Susan Hilchey, President  
Raymond Voter Information Project

### Glossary of Warrant Article Terms:

**Buy-Out** For the last 30 years, the Town paid long-term employees at a lower rate with the understanding the employee would receive a lump sum or "Buy-Out" of their leave & sick time at the end of their service (from 2022 Town definitions document posted in Voter Information area of <https://www.raymondnh.gov/>).

**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 (BOS)**. 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/mw8akwf2>)

**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: 2024 School Candidates

#### SCHOOL BOARD- (2) OPEN POSITIONS FOR A (3) YR TERM:

Gwen Clark  
John Harmon  
Nicole McKenney  
Brandyn Naro  
Stephen Scarfo

#### SCHOOL DISTRICT MODERATOR- (1) OPEN POSITION FOR A (3) YR TERM:

Tom Luszcz

#### SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK- (1) OPEN POSITION FOR A (3) YR TERM:

Dana D. Zulager

#### SCHOOL DISTRICT TREASURER- (1) OPEN POSITION FOR A (3) YR TERM:

Timothy Auclair

### School Article 2 – Operating Budget

This article will raise and appropriate \$30,723,861 for the Raymond School District's Operating Budget, or, if the article fails, will raise \$31,392,336, 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 is an increase of \$2,066,210 (7.2%) over last year's Operating Budget and is \$668,475 less than the Default Budget.

The main increases in the budget are \$847,687 for Health Insurance (increase of 25%), \$611,329 for Transportation, \$360,311 for Student Tuition, and \$428,935 for the following positions which had been funded by grants from Project Aware and ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund): Director of Health and Wellness, District Wide Psychologist, Elementary School Behavior Teacher, and Middle School Special Ed Social Emotional Learning Teacher.

The main decreases in the budget are \$109,063 for the elimination of two teaching positions and \$277,212 for six paraprofessional positions.

The estimated tax impact for the School Operating Budget is \$15.53 per thousand of valuation, or \$3,106.00 on a \$200,000 home. The estimated tax increase of the Operating Budget is an additional \$1.58 per thousand of valuation, or \$316.00 on a \$200,000 home.

The estimated tax impact for the Default Budget is \$16.02 per thousand of valuation, or \$3,204.00 on a \$200,000 home. The estimated tax increase of the Default Budget is an additional \$2.07 per thousand or \$414.00 on a \$200,000 home.

**A YES vote** raises \$30,723,861 to fund the 2024-2025 Raymond School District's Operating Budget.

**A NO vote** raises \$31,392,336 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 being proposed
- To prevent the Default Budget from taking effect

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

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

#### References:

1. PRESENTATION MADE DURING THE BUDGET COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING 1/2/2024 by Superintendent Terry Leatherman and Business Administrator Majorie Whitmore RCTV link: <http://tinyurl.com/4fpm254h> and slide presentation link: <http://tinyurl.com/msbuhddv>
2. RSA 40:13, X and XVI.

### School Article 3 – Capital Reserve Funds

This article will raise \$499,125 and deposit these funds into three School CRFs to support the School District's 20-year CIP. This plan projects the School District's needs out to 2042-2043. (1) The amount requested this year is an increase of \$45,375 as compared to last year's request of \$453,750, or an additional 10%. Estimated tax increase is \$0.06 per thousand of valuation, or \$12.00 on a \$200,000 home. The estimated tax impact for this Article is \$0.30 per thousand of valuation, or \$60.00 on a \$200,000 home.

\$403,526 (increased from \$223,989 in 2024) would be placed into the School District Equipment, Facilities Maintenance and Replacement CRF (established in 2006), which currently contains \$1,442,400.46. (1) Some of the projects proposed for the funds in this CRF this year include the replacement of an intercom system, bathroom upgrades, flooring upgrades at RHS, and a district truck. (2)

\$57,832 (decreased from \$191,290 in 2024) would be placed into the Technology Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2001), which currently contains \$441,310.52. (1) This fund is intended to save for the improvement of the technology used in Raymond's schools. The project proposed for funds in this CRF this year is a district-wide firewall replacement. (2)

\$37,767 (decreased from \$38,471 in 2024) would be placed into the Food Service Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2006), which currently contains \$177,643.14. (1) This fund is intended to save for the maintenance, upgrade, replacement, and/or repair of food service equipment. The projects proposed for funds in this CRF this year include a new dishwasher at LRES and a walk-in refrigerator at IHGMS. (2)

**A YES vote** raises \$499,125 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 and upgrades at the schools
- Consider saving for maintenance, upgrade and necessary replacements
- To avoid spikes in the tax rate and interest on borrowed/bonded funds by saving gradually

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

- Disagree with the stated purposes for these funds
- Prefer to finance high-cost items through other methods such as bonding or borrowing
- Prefer that expenditures determined to be required in 2025 are taken out of existing balances

#### References:

1. 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
2. The Raymond School District's Proposed Capital Reserve Fund Expenditures for the 2024-2025 School Year: <http://tinyurl.com/nhzkp2c9>

### School Article 4 – Capital Reserve Funds from Year-End Fund Balance

This article will allow the School Board to take up to \$400,000 from any surplus remaining in their Fund Balance as of June 30, 2024 and place it into two specific CRFs: 75% (or up to \$300,000) into the Equipment, Facilities Maintenance and Replacement CRF established in 2006, and 25% (or up to \$100,000) into the CRF for the Purpose of Educating Educationally Disabled Children, established in 2005. This is the same amount as requested in last year’s Warrant Article, and would allow the School District to save for future special education needs and capital improvement projects without additional taxation. There is no new tax impact.

The School District Equipment, Facilities Maintenance and Replacement CRF (established in 2006) currently contains \$1,391,119.06 (1), and is intended to pay for the maintenance, upgrading, replacement, and/or repair of equipment and facilities in Raymond’s schools. The CRF for the Purpose of Educating Educationally Disabled Children (established in 2005) currently contains \$198,989.26. (2)

A **YES vote** will authorize the School District to transfer up to \$400,000 from any surplus as of June 30th into these CRFs.

A **NO vote** will require that all of the surplus 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 save part of the year-end surplus 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 surplus 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 1/2/2024 Public Hearing: <http://tinyurl.com/msbuhddv>
2. 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

## TOWN WARRANT

### Article 1: 2024 Town Candidates:

To Select by Non-Partisan Ballot

#### BOARD OF SELECTMEN- (1) OPEN POSITION FOR A (3) YR TERM:

Doug Vogel

#### BOARD OF SELECTMEN- (1) OPEN POSITION FOR A (2) YR TERM:

Rani Merryman

#### BOARD OF SELECTMEN- (2) OPEN POSITIONS FOR A (1) YR TERM:

Anthony Clements

Tom Daigle

Curt Fitton “CJ”

#### BUDGET COMMITTEE- (2) OPEN POSITIONS FOR A (3) YR TERM:

Ryan B. Gartley

#### BUDGET COMMITTEE- (1) OPEN POSITION FOR A (1) YR TERM:

Nick Longo

#### ETHICS COMMITTEE- (2) OPEN POSITIONS FOR A (3) YR TERM:

Tom Luszczyk

Gretchen Gott

#### ETHICS COMMITTEE- (1) OPEN POSITIONS FOR A (2) YR TERM:

Cindy Bennett

#### SUPERVISOR’S OF THE CHECKLIST- (1) OPEN POSITION FOR A (6) YR TERM:

Jeffrey Roy

Lisa Morrill

#### TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUNDS- (1) OPEN POSITION FOR A (3) YR TERM:

Terrie Dolan

Cindy Bennett

#### LIBRARY TRUSTEE- (1) OPEN POSITION FOR A (3) YR TERM:

Bob Gagnon

Kera Clements

#### LIBRARY TRUSTEE- (1) OPEN POSITION FOR A (2) YR TERM:

Cindy Bennett

Stephan Gafford

Anya Vogel

#### TOWN MODERATOR- (1) OPEN POSITION FOR A (2) YR TERM:

Jim McLeod

#### PLANNING BOARD- (2) OPEN POSITIONS FOR A (3) YEAR TERM:

No Candidates\*

#### CEMETERY TRUSTEE- (1) OPEN POSITION FOR A (3) YEAR TERM:

No Candidates\*

#### CEMETERY TRUSTEE- (1) OPEN POSITION FOR A (2) YEAR TERM:

Kevin Woods

#### CEMETERY TRUSTEE- (1) OPEN POSITION FOR A (1) YEAR TERM

Joan Page

### Town Article 2 – Zoning Amendment – Overlay Districts

This article was designed to clarify several definitions in the Zoning Ordinance (1). If approved, definitions will be clarified for: Impervious Surface; Outdoor Storage; Secondary Containment; and it will amend the Subsection on Conditional Uses so that “all regulated substances stored in containers greater than 5 gallons must be in product-tight containers on a surface impervious to prevent exposure to soils, floor drains, and outside drains.”

A **YES vote** would change the definition and references of an Impervious Surface to include a distinction between “impervious” for retention of regulated substances, versus the use of the term “impervious” as it relates to the calculation of stormwater runoff.

A **NO vote** would leave the definitions and references unchanged.

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

- To clarify safe storage of regulated substances or calculations for Zoning compliance

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

- Do not think clarification of the term is necessary

#### References:

1. Raymond Zoning ordinance: <http://tinyurl.com/mryaybme>
2. Planning Board Public Hearing on 1/11/24: <http://tinyurl.com/4jab5hbu>
3. Town of Raymond Documents and Forms: <http://tinyurl.com/2ztjnwdt>

### Town Article 3 – Zoning Amendment – Definitions

This article is designed to add a definition of the term “Wetland Buffer,” also known as “Wetland Setback,” to the Zoning Ordinance; there is currently no definition included.

A **YES vote** would clarify the definition, and synonymous meaning, of wetland buffers/setbacks, by adding an official definition of Wetland Buffer to the Zoning Ordinance.

A **NO vote** would leave the Zoning Ordinance unchanged and Wet-

land Buffers undefined.

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

- Defining a wetland buffer or setback adds clarity to the Zoning Ordinance for applicants and the Town boards
- Defining a wetland buffer or setback allows for local enforcement

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

- Defining wetland buffer or setback isn't necessary
- Do not agree with the proposed definition

#### References:

1. See Planning Board Public Hearing on 1/11/24:  
<http://tinyurl.com/4jab5hbu>
2. Town of Raymond Documents and Forms:  
<http://tinyurl.com/2ztjnwdt>

### Town Article 4 – Zoning Amendment No. 3 - Shoreland Protection Area

This article is designed to clarify a definition of the term “Shoreland Protection Area” in the Zoning Ordinance.

**A YES vote** would amend the official definition of the Shoreland Protection Area to the Zoning Ordinance.

**A NO vote** would leave the Zoning Ordinance unchanged and Shoreland Protection Areas as currently stated.

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

- Amending the shoreland protection area adds clarity to the Zoning Ordinance for applicants and the Town boards
- Defining a shoreland protection area allows for local enforcement

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

- Shoreland protection area definition is sufficient as written
- Shoreland protection area regulations at the state level are adequate

### Town Article 5 – Zoning Amendment – District Boundaries

This article is designed to add the Wetland Setback Area to the District Boundaries for the purpose of regulating development within setback areas, and to make housekeeping changes to align with the intent.

**A YES vote** would change the Zoning Ordinance to add the Wetland Setback Area to the District Boundaries section.

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

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

- Regulating development in the wetland setback area is protective of groundwater resources
- Adding wetland setbacks to the District Boundaries section allows for local enforcement

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

- Development in the wetland buffer zone should not be regulated
- Wetland regulations at the state level are adequate, stricter town ordinances not needed

#### References:

1. Planning Board Public Hearing on 1/11/24:  
<http://tinyurl.com/4jab5hbu>
2. Town of Raymond Documents and Forms:  
<http://tinyurl.com/2ztjnwdt>

### Town Article 6 – Zoning Amendment – Area/Dimensional Table

This article removes all dimensional requirements in Article 15, Section 15.1, the *Area and Dimensional Table*, from Zone G (Conservation District) because development is already prohibited in this zone,

so dimensional requirements are unnecessary. This Zoning Amendment is considered a housekeeping item.

**A YES vote** approves this housekeeping change to Table 15.1.

**A NO vote** would result in leaving Table 15.1 contradictory and confusing.

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

- To clarify Table 15.1 requirements

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

- Do not feel that this change is necessary

#### References:

1. Communication with the Director - Planning/Economic & Community Development
2. Planning Board Public Hearing on 1/11/24:  
<http://tinyurl.com/4jab5hbu>
3. Town of Raymond Documents and Forms:  
<http://tinyurl.com/2ztjnwdt>

### Town Article 7 – Zoning Amendment – District Boundaries County Soil Map

This article will amend the Town Zoning Ordinance (1) by removing an out-of-date reference in several places. More specifically, the outdated references to be removed are in Section 4.9.3. DISTRICT BOUNDARIES. The zoning amendment asks voters to change the references to the Rockingham County Soil Survey Map (2) of October 1994 to “the most current edition” of the Rockingham County Soil Survey. These changes would be made in Subsection 4.9.3.3, Subsection 4.9.3.4, and Subsection 4.9.4.2.

**A YES vote** would replace references to the Rockingham County Soil Survey Map as of a static date, October 1994, with a reference to the most current edition of such map.

**A NO vote** would maintain a reference to an October 1994 version of the map, even after that map becomes outdated or the underlying data or science is possibly no longer valid.

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

- Make this section of the Zoning Ordinance automatically incorporate the most recent map data and science without having to vote an amendment to this section of the Zoning Ordinance each time the map data is updated

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

- Keep the static reference to the October 1994 map, even if that data or science behind it is no longer applicable, valid, or current

#### References:

1. Raymond Zoning ordinance, pages 13-14:  
<http://tinyurl.com/mryaybme>
2. Soil Surveys by State: <http://tinyurl.com/h3fw3tu2>
3. Planning Board Public Hearing on 1/11/24:  
<http://tinyurl.com/4jab5hbu>
4. Town of Raymond Documents and Forms:  
<http://tinyurl.com/2ztjnwdt>

### Town Article 8 – Zoning Amendment – Mixed Use Business Campus Overlay District

This article will amend the Town’s Zoning Ordinance (1) by removing wording about the Mixed Use Business Campus Overlay District (MUBCOD). The MUBCOD was approved by voters in March 2007 (2) following the addition of a Sewage Overlay District in 2006 (3). The Sewage Overlay District was created in conjunction with a Town initiative to construct and operate a municipal wastewater treatment facility to complement a mixed-use development at Exit 4. Since that time, the Sewage Overlay District was removed by Warrant Article in 2021 (4) and there are no current initiatives to construct a municipal wastewater treatment facility to support such development.

A **YES vote** will remove the MUBCOD from the Town Zoning Ordinance.

A **NO vote** will retain the MUBCOD as part of the Town's Zoning Ordinance.

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

- To eliminate any conflict or confusion as the Sewage Overlay District no longer exists in the town's Zoning Ordinances and would be needed to support a MUBCOD
- A MUBCOD can be put back into the Zoning Ordinance in the future if desired

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

- To retain the ordinance for a future initiative of a Town wastewater treatment facility
- To encourage development that would require a wastewater treatment facility

**References:**

1. 2023 Zoning Ordinances: <http://tinyurl.com/mryaybme>
2. 2007 Warrant Article 2 - Zoning Amendment #1, Town of Raymond Annual Report: <http://tinyurl.com/etfuh69v>
3. 2006 Warrant Article 10 - Zoning Amendment #9, Town of Raymond Annual Report: <http://tinyurl.com/tsy34nwd>
4. 2021 Warrant Article 6 - Zoning Amendment 5, Town and School Voting Results: <http://tinyurl.com/m9p9rc2z>
5. Planning Board Public Hearing on 1/11/24: <http://tinyurl.com/4jab5hbu>
6. Town of Raymond Documents and Forms: <http://tinyurl.com/2ztjnwdt>

**Town Article 9 – Zoning Amendment - Solar Panels Definitions**

This article will amend the Town's Zoning Ordinances to add a definition for solar panels as they relate to planning and development, as there is no definition at present. Furthermore, for planning and development calculations, solar panels will be considered 100% impervious. (1)(2)(3)

A **YES vote** will add a definition of Solar Panels to the Town's Zoning Ordinances.

A **NO vote** leaves Solar Panels undefined in the Town's Zoning Ordinances.

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

- Want solar panels to be defined in the zoning ordinances because the industry is growing
- For planning calculations, consider solar panels impervious

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

- Consider this definition of solar panels incorrect or not needed in zoning ordinances
- Do not think solar panels should not be considered 100% impervious for stormwater calculations

**References:**

1. Meeting Minutes from Planning Board meeting 11/30/2023, Discussion of Impervious Surfaces beginning line 303: <http://tinyurl.com/4mt49ef6>
2. Meeting Minutes from joint Planning Board and Conservation Commission meeting of 11/16/2023, Discussion of Impervious Surfaces beginning line 494: <http://tinyurl.com/3kv2dzy2>
3. Meeting Minutes from Planning Board meeting of 12/14/2023, Discussion of Impervious Surface beginning line 228 and Solar Panel Definition beginning line 551: <http://tinyurl.com/4p9768fc>
4. Planning Board Public Hearing on 1/11/24: <http://tinyurl.com/4jab5hbu>
5. Town of Raymond Documents and Forms: <http://tinyurl.com/2ztjnwdt>

**Town Article 10 – Operating Budget/Default Budget**

This article asks the voters to raise and appropriate a 2024 Operating Budget of \$10,465,695, which includes a Town component of \$9,570,274 and a Water Department component of \$895,421.

The 2024 Town component represents an increase of \$1,046,698 or 12.28% over 2023, which was \$9,401,529. The 2024 Water component represents an increase of \$17,468 or 1.99% over 2023, which was \$877,953.

If this motion fails, the default budget will be \$10,217,299, which is \$248,396 or 2.37% less than the proposed budget, with the Town budget being reduced by \$239,310 or 2.50% and the Water budget being reduced by \$9,087 or 1.01%. The reason that the default budget is \$248,396 less than the 2024 Operating Budget, while the 2024 Operating Budget is \$1,064,166 higher than the 2023 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:

- Elections: increasing \$29,222 (158%) to total \$47,689 which is \$184 over default, due to an increased number of elections in 2024 (local and national)
- Planning: increasing \$24,221 (13%) to total \$210,639 which is \$22,796 over default
- Legal: increasing \$50,149 (99%) to total \$100,750 which is \$50,149 over default
- Police: increasing \$395,944 (19%) to total \$2,497,217 which is \$33,170 over default
- Fire: increasing \$219,829 (37%) to total \$817,520 which is \$32,972 over default
- Bldg/Health Code Enforcement: increasing \$14,683 (16%), which is \$4,301 over default
- Dispatch: increasing \$85,455 (17%) which is \$20,220 over default
- DPW Administration: increasing \$67,794 (43%) which is \$56,058 over default
- Transfer: increasing \$15,176 (23%) which is \$1,575 below default
- Recreation: increasing \$42,944 (12%) which is \$2,071 over default

Notable areas of decrease by budget line include:

- Town Clerk: Tax Collector, decreasing \$17,577 (7%) which is \$14,386 below default
- Street lights: decreasing \$6,000 (27%) which is \$6,000 below default
- Welfare: decreasing \$8,248 (14%) which is \$7,643 below default

The Estimated 2024 Tax Impact of the Operating Budget is \$4.942 per thousand of valuation, or \$988.40 on a \$200,000 home.

The Estimated 2024 Tax Impact of the Default Budget is \$4.766 per thousand of valuation, or \$953.20 on a \$200,000 home.

A **YES vote** would approve the 2024 Operating Budget as presented by the Town Manager, Finance Director, and Board of Selectmen, and allow the Town to pursue specific projects and staffing targets.

A **NO vote** would set the budget at the default funding level, 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 2024 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 (1)
- The budget has increased in part due to the Town voting to adopt the Police collective bargaining agreement last year, and to hire additional staff in each of the last two Town Meetings

(Fire, Planning, Recreation) (2)(3)

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

- Default Budget is lower and would alleviate the increased tax burden
- Not satisfied with the results of the vote at Deliberative Session, and would like the Town to hold a special meeting on the Town Operating Budget

**References:**

1. 2024 BOS Approved Budget with Revenues 1/12/2024: <http://tinyurl.com/34hvwvwr>
2. Town of Raymond 2023 March Town Election Results. Article 12 – Police Collective Bargaining Agreement, Article 14 – Two Full-Time Firefighters, Article 15 – Half-Time Youth Sports Coordinator (Recreation): <http://tinyurl.com/yhusanu7>
3. Town of Raymond 2022 March Town Election Results. Article 29 – Citizen Petition: Re-establish Full-time Planner: <http://tinyurl.com/ya424t72>

**Town Article 11 – Collective Bargaining Agreement**

This article is aimed at improving the Town’s recruiting and retaining of Town employees by increasing incentives using a longevity matrix for salaries. A Senior Foreman pay scale was added for senior employees. Benefits include added costs for essential footwear by twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) each year for three years beginning in 2024. Water Department employees will have an increased “on-call” pay. All AF-SCME employees’ “Vacation & Sick Leave Buyout Upon Termination Of Employment” will increase but is not part of this Warrant Article’s tax impact. Another benefit change adds the inclusion of “Domestic Partners”, as outlined by the insurance carrier’s criteria.

This article includes the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

<b>First Year</b>	<b>Additional Costs</b>
2024	\$106,111
Tax Impact	\$.078
<i>Successive Years</i>	<i>Estimated Increases</i>
2025	\$70,243
2026	\$37,003
2027	\$36,523
2028	\$37,246
2029 (3 Mo.)	\$9,346

**A YES vote** approves the contract between the Town and AFSCME, Local 863, funds the first calendar year, and commits the Town to funding the rest of the five-year contract.

**A NO vote** continues the current contract.

**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 any or all terms of the collective bargaining agreement.

**References:**

- The AFSCME contract runs from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2029. This is a five year contract paid out in six different calendar years. This article includes current staffing levels.
- For more information about the agreement, contact Town Hall. Other resources include Budget Committee Meeting 12/28/2023, RCTV video (1) at 7 minutes, 14 seconds. <http://tinyurl.com/4cmpf2xf>

**Town Article 12 – Collective Bargaining Agreement Special Meeting**

This article will allow the Town to call one special meeting to address the Collective Bargaining Agreement in the event the previous Warrant Article #11 fails.

**A YES vote** allows the Town to call one special meeting to address Article 11.

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

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

- To give the Town the opportunity to renegotiate the contract and present it to the voters
- To save legal fees that the Town would incur to petition the court to hold a special meeting

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

- To avoid the cost of an additional meeting

**Town Article 13 – Water Tower Rehabilitation**

This article will raise and appropriate \$1,700,000 for the purpose of rehabilitating the Route 156 water tower, performing improvements to the Long Hill Road water tower, and demolishing the Orchard Street water tower. These steps are intended to bring the Town into compliance with the requirements of the Administrative Order (1) issued by the State of New Hampshire. This article is to be funded by authorizing the Town to transfer funds on hand from the Town UFB (\$700,000), the Water Department UFB (\$500,000), and from the Water Storage Facilities CRF (\$500,000). (2) Thus, the cost is to be shared between Water District users and citizens, using funds already collected. (3)

The Route 156 water tank was constructed in 1957. It is a welded steel tank with a capacity of 606,000 gallons. Plans include installing a mixing pump, paint blasting and lead remediation, repairing the tank as needed, and recoating the tank. The Long Hill Road tank was constructed in 2004 and is a precast concrete tank with a capacity of 562,000 gallons. The plan is to install a mixing pump to keep water circulating to reduce potential maintenance costs. The Orchard Street tank, constructed in 1893, is a riveted steel tank with a capacity of 119,000 gallons. Plans are to demolish this tank. The projected timeline has project completion by June 2025 (the deadline given by the Administrative Order). (4) The Planning Board formed a Water Planning Committee (WPC), with members from Planning Board and members at large from the public, to investigate “all aspects of Raymond water resources” at their meeting on 11/22/2022. (5) A plan was created to make necessary critical improvements to the Town water system.

There is no new tax impact in 2024. Majority vote required.

**A YES vote** would fund the rehabilitation of the Route 156 water tank, installation of a mixing pump to the Long Hill Road water tank, and dismantling and removal of the Orchard Street water tank.

**A NO vote** would not address the water tank issues using the above solution.

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

- To avoid fines from NH DES for failure to take action in compliance with their Administrative Order (1)
- All residents benefit because Town facilities and Schools utilize the water system
- Fire response relies on Town water and can improve insurance ratings for residents and businesses
- Improvements to the Main Street water line are planned to help with water flow for fire suppression
- The WPC considers this article key for future water system improvements to proceed (4)

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

- Concerns about spending funds to rehabilitate the 67-year old Route 156 tank which has an average life expectancy of 80-100 years (6)
- Prefer a solution that replaces the two older water tanks with a new one
- Concerns about spending a large percentage of the Water Storage Facilities CRF and Water & Town UFBs
- Prefer the Town finance the project by other methods
- Concern that the Town is pursuing the option with the lowest upfront cost instead of factoring in life cycle cost and anticipated demands from planned development (6) (7)

**References:**

1. NH Dept. of Environmental Services, Administrative Order No. 23-004 WD, 4/28/2023: <http://tinyurl.com/5n8e3h33>
2. Balances available as of December 2023: Town's UFB \$4,694,888 (14.23%) per NH Department of Revenue Administration, Water UFB \$812,007, and Water Storage Facilities CRF \$532,170. Amounts were shared by Finance Director Julie Jenks at the Town Deliberative Session, 2/3/2024: <http://tinyurl.com/yjeshnnpn>
3. Discussion at Town Deliberative Session regarding adequacy of the UFBs and CRF specified for this Project while maintaining a "comfortable" balance in those funds, 2/3/2024: <http://tinyurl.com/yjeshnnpn>, 1:15
4. WPC video, January 2024 video on RCTV: <http://tinyurl.com/2uvdea93>
5. WPC Minutes on the Planning Board page for minutes and agendas: <http://tinyurl.com/pnkjzehl>
6. Water Storage Facilities Evaluation Final Report from Weston & Sampson, 1/31/2020: <http://tinyurl.com/2c8twzad>
7. Raymond BOS Work Session with Consultants from Underwood Engineers and Weston and Sampson, 04/26/2023 video on RCTV: <http://tinyurl.com/x5fd4ad6>

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**Town Article 14 – Bridge and Culvert Capital Reserve Fund Deposit - Deposit of Distribution received from the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation of a one-time Bridge Payment**

This article allows the Town to transfer \$58,981 from the UFB to the Town's Bridge and Culvert CRF. (1) This sum was Raymond's share of a \$10 million appropriation made by the State of New Hampshire in 2023 and was intended to address infrastructure needs, specifically work on Town-owned bridges. The BOS voted to accept this payment in December of 2023. (2) There is no tax impact.

**A YES vote** approves this transfer of funds from the UFB to the Bridge and Culvert CRF.

**A NO vote** will not allow the Town to transfer the funds into the Bridge and Culvert CRF and will instead leave them in the UFB.

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

- Want to add state funds to the Bridge and Culvert CRF
- Want to be sure the funds can be used for immediate infrastructure needs

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

- May feel that there are some strings attached when accepting funds from the State of NH
- Prefer to fund bridge work in some other fashion, perhaps via the Operating Budget

**References:**

1. The balance in this CRF is \$279,838.05. Report of the Trust Funds of the Town of Raymond for the Period 12/01/2023-12/31/2023: <http://tinyurl.com/3y3nt9tx>
2. BOS Minutes, 12/23/2023: <http://tinyurl.com/c4t99dta>

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**Town Article 15 – Capital Reserve Funds Appropriations**

This article raises \$185,000 to distribute among four (4) previously-established CRFs. A CRF is cash set aside for specific capital improvements identified in the CIP that cost more than \$20,000 and have a 5-year or longer life span (e.g., vehicle purchases, department equipment, computer upgrades per rotation). The following CRFs will be funded as listed below, with the BOS as agents to expend from said funds.

Highway Dept. Vehicle Repair & Replacement (2023 Avail. Bal. \$389,090) (1)	\$50,000
Fire Department Equipment and Vehicle (2023 Avail. Bal. \$632,847) (1)	\$50,000
Town Office Technology Fund (2023 Avail. Bal. \$1,209) (1)	\$60,000
Parks Equipment & Facilities (2023 Avail. Bal. \$57,466) (1)	\$25,000

The following CRFs will **not** be funded by this Warrant Article:

General Government Buildings Maintenance & Improvements; Highway Department Heavy Equipment; Bridge & Culvert; Sidewalks; Master Plan Updates; New Town Facilities; Library; Police Department & Dispatch Equipment, Vehicle, & Facilities; and Recreation Department Equipment, Vehicles & Facilities. Estimated Tax Impact is \$0.136 or \$27.20 on a \$200,000 home.

**A YES vote** would approve raising and distributing 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 saving gradually to avoid spikes in the tax rate or the cost of bonding for large purchases
- To support the Town's previously identified long-range needs, per CIP, including the authority to collect impact fees from developers

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

- Consider the CRF balances sufficient
- Prefer to bond (borrow) and pay for items as a project is built and used

**References:**

1. December, 2023 report of CRF Balances from the Financial Department. Trustees of the Trust Funds Reports available online: <http://tinyurl.com/5yhxff8t>

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**Town Article 16 – 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 19) with the goal of returning Town Roads to a maintainable condition. This sum of \$150,000 is to come from the UFB (2) 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 more funds toward 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 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

**References:**

1. Trustees of the Trust Funds Reports available online: <http://tinyurl.com/5yhxff8t>
2. The UFB is the residual classification for the general fund, representing the balance that has not been assigned to other funds and that has not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes within the general fund. Taken from Statement #54 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, 2009

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**Town Article 17 – Water Department Capital Reserve Funds Appropriations**

This article will raise and appropriate \$206,000 for the purpose of funding the following CRFs for the Raymond Water Department, with the BOS as agents to expend from said funds.

**Construct, Repair & Maintain Town**

Water Treatment Facility (2023 Avail. Bal. \$213,004.30) (1)	\$ 51,500
Water System Infrastructure (2023 Avail. Bal. \$218,923.92) (1)	\$ 46,350
Water Storage Facilities (2023 Avail. Bal. \$532,170.01) (1)	\$103,000
Water Department Utility Replacement Vehicle (2023 Avail. Bal. \$ 21,441.25) (1)	\$ 3,090
New Well Site Acquisitions (2023 Avail. Bal. \$ 68,538.13) (1)	\$ 2,060

The total amount being requested is the same as last year, and the amounts for each CRF are the same as last year. There is no tax impact as these funds come from revenue from municipal water users.

**A YES vote** would approve adding \$206,000 into the Water Department CRFs as listed above.

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

**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:**

- December, 2023 report of CRF Balances from the Financial Department. Trustees of the Trust Funds Reports available online: <http://tinyurl.com/5yhxff8t>

**Town Article 18 – Shim and Overlay Special Revenue Fund**

This article raises up to \$321,194 for road construction purposes by withdrawing existing funds from the Shim and Overlay SRF and the UFB. 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 with gravel shim and asphalt overlay. This article authorizes the withdrawal of \$251,000 from the Department of Public Works Shim and Overlay SRF. (1) It also authorizes using \$70,194 from the UFB, which was previously provided by the State (2) and earmarked for the Shim and Overlay SRF. Combining these amounts yields \$321,194 for this specific type of road work. There is no net impact to the Town's Operating Budget because NH State Highway Block Grant revenue funds this SRF. There is no new tax impact.

**A YES vote** authorizes withdrawal of \$251,000 from Shim and Overlay SRF and \$70,194 from the UFB to perform shim and overlay work on the Town's roads.

**A NO vote** means that the funds cannot be withdrawn from the Shim and Overlay SRF or the earmarked \$70,194 from the UFB for this specific type of road repair this year.

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

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

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

- 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. Board of Selectmen meeting, 1/2/24 at 2:12:45: <http://tinyurl.com/4pu2s76r>

**Town Article 19 – Road Reconstruction Projects**

This article raises \$250,000 for road reconstruction projects, withdrawing the funds from the UFB, and will not impact the residents' property tax bills. These funds can be utilized until December 31, 2026, or until the road reconstruction work has been completed, whichever comes first. (1) The State will contribute \$250,000 this year towards the Town's road maintenance as stated in Warrant Article 18. (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 enable the Town of Raymond to reconstruct some roads rather than continue to make more temporary repairs to those roads
- To try to decrease the percentage of road miles in need of reconstruction. The percentage has increased in recent years because DPW Director position vacancies

**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. Annual State-provided Highway Block Grant funds as stipulated by RSA 235:23

**Town Article 20 – Social Services Agencies - Child Advocacy Center**

This article raises \$5,000 to support the Child Advocacy Center of Rockingham County (CAC). This organization's mission is to provide victims of child abuse with a neutral environment where justice, healing, equity, and prevention are fostered through the consistent, high-quality, and sustaining collaboration of community partners. (1)

The funding amount requested from the CAC for this year is \$2,000. On January 2, 2024, the BOS voted to recommend the amount of \$5,000. (2) Further information about the history of Raymond's financial support for CAC is available in archived copies of the Town's Annual Reports at the Dudley-Tucker Library or online at the UNH Town Reports Archive. (3)

The estimated 2024 tax impact is \$0.004 per thousand of valuation, or \$0.80 on a \$200,000 home.

**A YES vote** will provide \$5,000 of funding for the Child Advocacy Center.

**A NO vote** will not provide \$5,000 of funding for the Child Advocacy Center.

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

- Financially support this nonprofit agency that serves Raymond residents in need

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

- Personal objections to this agency or town funding of social service agencies

**References:**

1. Child Advocacy Center of Rockingham County: <http://tinyurl.com/bp4r9s7d>
2. BOS meeting, 1/2/24, starting at time stamp 39:25 (RCTV recording): <http://tinyurl.com/4pu2s76r>
3. UNH Town Reports Archive for Raymond: <http://tinyurl.com/ywp88ner>

### Town Article 21 – Social Services Agencies - Ray-Fre Center

This article raises \$5,000 to support the Ray-Fre Senior Center (RFSC), located at 64 Main Street, and established in 1968 to provide activities for Raymond residents aged 55 and older. (1)

In 2023, the amount proposed for the RFSC was \$4,269, and the article passed with a vote of 880 to 436. (2) Prior to 2022, warrant articles to provide between \$2,000 or \$5,000 have shown up a handful of times, dating back to 1974. All warrant articles involving funding the RFSC have passed. Further information about the history of Raymond's financial support for RFSC is available in archived copies of the Town's Annual Reports at the Dudley-Tucker Library or online at the UNH Town Reports Archive. (3)

The amount requested by RFSC this year is \$4,200. On January 2, 2024, the BOS voted to recommend the amount of \$5,000. (4)

The estimated 2024 tax impact is \$0.004 per thousand of valuation, or \$0.80 on a \$200,000 home.

**A YES vote** will provide \$5,000 of funding for the RFSC.

**A NO vote** will not provide \$5,000 of funding for the RFSC.

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

- Financially support this nonprofit serving seniors in Raymond

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

- Personal objections to this agency or town funding of social service agencies

#### References:

1. Ray-Fre Senior Center: <http://tinyurl.com/59rdt8rj>
2. Town of Raymond 2023 March Town Election Results. Article 24 – Social Service Agencies: <http://tinyurl.com/yhusanu7>
3. UNH Town Reports Archive for Raymond: <http://tinyurl.com/ywp88ner>
4. BOS meeting, 1/2/24, starting at time stamp 39:25 (RCTV recording): <http://tinyurl.com/yx2zdbyc>

### Town Article 22 – Social Services Agencies - Raymond Coalition for Youth

This article raises \$5,000 to support the Raymond Coalition for Youth (RCFY). Founded in 2002 to serve Raymond residents including youth and adults, RCFY's stated mission is to empower the community to promote positive youth development and reduce youth substance use and suicide risk. (1)

RCFY requested \$10,684 of funding this year. On January 2, 2024, the BOS voted to change the amount of funding proposed for RCFY to \$5,000. (2) Further information about the history of Raymond's financial support for RCFY is available in archived copies of the Town's Annual Reports at the Dudley-Tucker Library or online at the UNH Town Reports Archive. (3)

The estimated 2024 tax impact is \$0.004 per thousand of valuation, or \$0.80 on a \$200,000 home.

**A YES vote** will provide \$5,000 of funding for RCFY.

**A NO vote** will not provide \$5,000 of funding for RCFY.

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

- Financially support this nonprofit serving youth and families in Raymond

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

- Personal objections to this agency or town funding of social service agencies

#### References:

1. Raymond Coalition for Youth: <http://tinyurl.com/ynfcanc6>

2. BOS meeting, 1/2/24, starting at time stamp 39:25 (RCTV recording): <http://tinyurl.com/yx2zdbyc>

3. UNH Town Reports Archive for Raymond: <http://tinyurl.com/ywp88ner>

### Town Article 23 – Social Services Agencies - Rockingham County Nutrition Program

This article raises \$5,000 to support the Rockingham County Nutrition Program (RCNP), also known as *Rockingham County Nutrition & Meals on Wheels*. They offer home meal delivery to those in need. Also, luncheons are served Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Ray-Fre Senior Center for seniors who are able to get out of the house. (1)

The amount requested by RCNP this year was \$6,000. On January 2, 2024, the Raymond Board of Selectmen voted to recommend the amount of \$5,000. (2) Further information about the history of Raymond's financial support for RCNP is available in archived copies of the Town's Annual Reports at the Dudley-Tucker Library or online at the UNH Town Reports Archive. (3)

The estimated 2024 tax impact is \$0.004 per thousand of valuation, or \$0.80 on a \$200,000 home.

**A YES vote** will provide \$5,000 of funding for the RCNP (Meals on Wheels) program.

**A NO vote** will not provide \$5,000 of funding for the RCNP.

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

- Financially support this nonprofit serving seniors and those in need in Raymond

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

- Personal objections to this agency or town funding of social service agencies

#### References:

1. Rockingham County Nutrition Program, Meals on Wheels: <http://tinyurl.com/mrxfrx5z>
2. BOS meeting, 1/2/24, starting at time stamp 39:25 (RCTV recording): <http://tinyurl.com/yx2zdbyc>
3. UNH Town Reports Archive for Raymond: <http://tinyurl.com/ywp88ner>

### Town Article 24 – Social Services Agencies - Other

This article raises \$3,000 to support six social service agencies at \$500 per agency: HAVEN, Chamber Children's Fund, American Red Cross, Waypoint at the Richie McFarland Center, One Sky Community Services, and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

Each of these organizations serves Raymond residents in need. (1)

- HAVEN is the largest violence prevention and support services agency in NH, working to eliminate domestic and sexual violence through education, support, and social change. Last year support was \$3,415.
- Chamber Children's Fund (also known as The Community Children's Fund) has a voucher program that distributes funds to families for the purchase of warm clothes and coats for children, and also distributes funds to local schools to catch needs that they may not be aware of including clothes, shoes, coats, mittens, and other necessary items for students in need. Last year support was \$2,560.
- The American Red Cross works to prevent and alleviate adversities in the face of emergencies by mobilizing volunteers and resources. Last year support was \$1,580.
- Waypoint at the Richie McFarland Center's services include prenatal support, parent education/family empowerment, services for children with developmental concerns or chronic health conditions, child care, mental health counseling, family preservation, supervised visitation, foster care, homeless youth continuum, home healthcare for older Americans and adults with disabilities, and advocacy. Last year support was \$9,392.

- One Sky Community Services helps determine eligibility for and provides access to residential support, respite, service coordination, specialty funding, community support services, vocational support, in-home support, and many other services for people with developmental disabilities. Not funded last year.
- CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of New Hampshire recruits, trains, and supports community volunteers to serve as advocates for children throughout the state who have experienced abuse or neglect. Last year support was \$1,708.

On January 2, 2024, the Board of Selectmen voted to recommend \$500 for each of these agencies. (2)

Further information on the history of Raymond's financial support to these agencies is available in previous RVIP Voter Guides, in archived copies of the Town's Annual Reports at the Dudley-Tucker Library or online at the UNH Town Reports Archive. (3)(4) The estimated 2024 tax impact is \$0.002 per thousand of valuation, or \$0.40 on a \$200,000 home.

**A YES vote** will provide \$3,000 of funding (\$500 each for these six social service agencies).

**A NO vote** will not provide \$3,000 of funding (\$500 each for these six social service agencies).

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

- Financially support these nonprofit agencies that serve Raymond residents in need

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

- Personal objections to any of these agencies or town funding of social service agencies

**References:**

1. HAVEN: <http://tinyurl.com/2pa352cn>  
Chamber Children's Fund: <http://tinyurl.com/4nbbhp2v>  
American Red Cross: <http://tinyurl.com/34e43ekc> Waypoint at the Richie McFarland Center: <http://tinyurl.com/3wbphdfb>  
One Sky Community Services: <http://tinyurl.com/357emy46>  
Court Appointed Special Advocates: <http://tinyurl.com/5y4zxybw>
2. BOS meeting, 1/2/24, starting at time stamp 39:25 (RCTV recording): <http://tinyurl.com/4pu2s76r>
3. RVIP Voting Guide archives: <http://tinyurl.com/4wmpk4ya>
4. UNH Town Reports Archive for Raymond: <http://tinyurl.com/ywp88ner>

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

This article asks voters to authorize moving \$10,000 from the UFB and depositing it into the Sick and Vacation Leave Non-Union ETF. (1) This fund was established in 2004 to ensure that the Town would have enough money to pay for accrued sick and vacation leave when non-union employees retire or resign. This expense is an unfunded Town liability, so monies have been added to this Trust Fund since it was established. This amount is decreased from \$20,000 from last year's Warrant Article. There is no new tax impact.

**A YES vote** transfers \$10,000 from the UFB to the Sick and Vacation Leave Non-Union ETF.

**A NO vote** does not add any money into the Sick and Vacation Leave Non-Union ETF.

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

- To budget for potential long-term employee retirement or other job separation by non-union employees
- To alleviate unfunded liabilities

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

- To fund these payouts through a different method, such as the Operating Budget

- Prefer that employees use all of their sick and vacation leave annually

**References:**

1. MS-9 Report of the Trust Funds of the Town of Raymond for the Period 12/01/2023 thru 12/31/2023, page 12. The current balance is \$88,267.77. <http://tinyurl.com/3y3nt9tx>

**Town Article 26 – Sick and Vacation Leave Union Trust Fund**

This article asks voters to authorize removing \$10,000 from the UFB and depositing it into the Sick and Vacation Leave Union ETF. (1) This fund was established in 2004 to ensure that the Town would have the money to pay for accrued sick and vacation leave when union employees leave Town employment. This Trust Fund covers an unfunded liability to the Town, so funds have been deposited into the Fund since it was established. This amount is decreased from \$20,000 from last year's Warrant Article. There is no new tax impact.

**A YES vote** moves \$10,000 from the UFB to the Sick and Vacation Leave Union ETF.

**A NO vote** does not move any money into the Sick and Vacation Leave Union ETF.

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

- To budget for potential long-term employee retirement or other job separation by union employees
- To alleviate unfunded liabilities

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

- To fund these employee payouts through another means, such as the Operating Budget
- Prefer that employees use all of their sick and vacation leave annually

**References:**

1. Per the MS-9 Report of the Trust Funds of the Town of Raymond for the Period 12/01/2023 thru 12/31/2023 on page 12, the current balance in the fund is \$118,574.47. <http://tinyurl.com/3y3nt9tx>

**Town Article 27 – Town of Raymond Scholarship Fund**

This article raises \$2,000, an amount determined annually by the BOS, to the Town of Raymond Scholarship Fund (established in 2000). The purpose is to offer scholarship monies to Raymond High School graduates and any Raymond residents attending their first year of college. Applicants must submit documentation to apply for scholarships (e.g., letters of recommendation from teachers, resumes, grade reports, financial need). The BOS determines how many applicants qualify, which will receive an award, and the amounts awarded. Within the first year of study, recipients must submit documentation (e.g., grades, student ID number, upcoming class schedule) before the scholarship can be sent directly to their institution's Financial Aid Office. (1)(2) Estimated tax impact is \$0.001 per thousand of valuation, or \$0.20 for a \$200,000 home.

**A YES vote** would add \$2,000 to the Town of Raymond Scholarship Fund and allow the BOS to expend the funds.

**A NO vote** would not add any monies to the Scholarship Fund and permit only the funds remaining in the account to be used.

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

- To add money to the Scholarship Fund
- To continue this 20-year effort to benefit local students

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

- To fund Scholarship awards in another way
- Do not want the Town of Raymond to fund this purpose

**References:**

1. BOS meeting, 1/2/24, starting at time stamp 1:06:50 (RCTV recording): <http://tinyurl.com/4pu2s76r>
2. Report of the Trust Funds of the Town of Raymond for the Period 12/01/2023 thru 12/31/2023, page 12. The current balance is \$10,747. <http://tinyurl.com/3y3nt9tx>

### **Town Article 28 – Establish Contingency Fund**

This article will establish a contingency fund as allowed by State statute in the amount of \$95,702, taken from the UFB. (1) The fund is to be used for unexpected expenses, and the BOS are 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.

A contingency fund was first created by the voters in 2019, but as of the end of 2023, these funds have never been used and have lapsed each year. (2) There is no new tax impact.

**A YES vote** will create a contingency fund of \$95,702 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. RSA 31:98-a: Contingency Fund. “Such fund shall not exceed one percent of the amount appropriated by the town for town purposes during the preceding year excluding capital expenditures and the amortization of debt.”
2. Email from Financial Director, Julie Jenks, to RVIP; 1/9/2024.

### **Town Article 29 – 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. Repayment of the loan may include up to 100% principal forgiveness, and only a low rate of interest would be paid by the Town for stormwater planning or eligible projects. 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. (3) (4) Raymond became a regulated small MS4 (“Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System”) community in 2012. (5) Tax impact for 2024 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. (5)

**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 Bond or note, 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 NHDES-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 in some other fashion, such as the Operating Budget

#### **References:**

1. New Hampshire DES Clean Water State Revolving Fund: <http://tinyurl.com/bdh7tsz9>
2. RSA 33:3 Municipal Finance Act: <http://tinyurl.com/bdz4ckwh>
3. NH Stormwater Regional Coalitions’ MS4: <http://tinyurl.com/3vz72uk8>
4. New Hampshire DES Stormwater: <http://tinyurl.com/5d7btn4b>
5. NH Small MS4 General-Permit: <http://tinyurl.com/yz6nk2t9>

### **Town Article 30 – Waste Disposal Special Revenue Fund (Fund 18)**

This article gives the Town access to 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 Transfer Station lease payments from Casella Waste System, which operates the Transfer Station, and the sale of Transfer Station permits. While the Pay-as-You-Throw program is no longer in place in Raymond, funds are still needed to cover the costs of the recycling program at 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 Town officials to access the funds already set aside in Fund 18 for the costs associated with the Town’s 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 recycling program 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
- To discontinue the recycling program at the Transfer Station

### **Town Article 31 – One Time or Cyclical Procurement CRF**

This article moves \$104,000 from the UFB in order to make a settlement payment with Consolidated Communications for the Utilities Reassessment. This amount will be the second payment to correct what was ruled to be the Town’s overcharge for the tax assessment of utility poles, a situation which also affected many other towns. This amount was negotiated to be at a lesser amount than the actual overcharge, and is considered favorable for the Town. (1) There is no new tax impact.

**A YES vote** will allow \$104,000 from the UFB to be used as payment for the negotiated settlement of the Consolidated Communications Utilities Reassessment case.

**A NO vote** will not allow UFB monies to be used to pay this settlement.

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

- To pay the settlement without additional taxation
- To meet a legal obligation

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

- Disagree with the terms of the settlement
- Disagree with using UFB for this settlement

#### **References:**

1. BOS Meeting, 12/26/2023, at timestamp 1:52:15.  
<http://tinyurl.com/4y44surx>

### **Town Article 32 – Fire Department Utility Vehicle Special Revenue Fund (Fund 17)**

The purpose of this article is to purchase one Fire Department Utility Vehicle. The planned vehicle is a 4-wheel drive, 4-door truck for firefighters and equipment. The cost of \$53,000 is to come from the Fire Department Utility Fund (Fund 17). The Town established this fund in 2005, Warrant Article #27. The current amount in this fund is \$128,632.16, from inspection fees garnered to offset the cost of utility vehicles. (1)

In 2020, Warrant Article #23 proposed allowing the Fire Department to spend \$45,215 from Fund 17 to purchase a new Ford Expedition to replace a Chevy Tahoe which had over 100,000 miles on it. (2) This article passed with a vote of 1003 to 292. (3) The current Ram duty vehicle is more than 10 years old with over 100,000 miles on it. (4) There is no new tax impact.

**A YES vote** will provide \$53,000 of funding for a Fire Department Utility Vehicle from the SRF.

**A NO vote** will not provide \$53,000 of funding for a Fire Department Utility Vehicle.

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

- Fund 17 was set up so that a vote of the Legislative Body is necessary for the Fire Department to access and utilize these funds
- To provide the Fire Department with a new, reliable vehicle

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

- Do not want the Fire Department to purchase an additional Fire Department Utility Vehicle
- Do not agree with spending money from Fund 17

#### **References:**

1. Board of Selectmen meeting, 1/9/24, time stamp of 5:47 to 14:17 in the video recording: <http://tinyurl.com/5434f7vj>
2. RVIP Voting Guide 2020: <http://tinyurl.com/c4jheef2>
3. Town of Raymond 2020 Voting results: <http://tinyurl.com/nbkahtac>
4. Statement from Fire Chief Paul Hammond at Town Deliberative Session, 2/3/24, at timestamp 2:19:32: <http://tinyurl.com/yjeshnpp>

### **Town Article 33 – Citizens Petition - Community Power**

This Citizen Petition states: “Whereas, Community Power promises to save every household a significant amount of money each year for electricity, and

Whereas, continuing the process of adopting RSA 53-E, Community Power will incur NO costs to the community or to individual households,

Therefore, Shall the Voters of the Town of Raymond vote to continue the activities of the Raymond Community Power Aggregation Committee per RSA 53-E:6 (Electric Aggregation Plan) and RSA 53-E:7 (Aggregation Program) to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the Raymond Community Power Aggregation Committee be reactivated and to require a vote in either the 2024 or 2025 Town Meeting on accepting the plan, the year determined as to when all required public hearings and approvals have been completed. The Selectmen suspended activities of the committee on 8/7/23.” There is no tax impact. Advisory only.

**A YES vote** will advise the BOS to reactivate the Raymond Community Power Aggregation Committee (RCPAC) and to hold a vote on the Committee’s plan in 2024 or 2025.

**A NO vote** will not advise the BOS to recreate this Committee or to vote on a power plan.

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

- Want an option to pay less for residential electricity (1) (2)
- Support restarting the RCPAC
- Support for sustainable and cost-effective energy solutions without additional financial burdens

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

- Satisfied with the current energy-utility options and costs
- Uncertainty about what is required to commit to a Community Power Program
- Disagree with the proposed timeline to vote on a Community Power plan for Raymond

#### **References:**

1. “The general court finds it to be in the public interest to allow municipalities and counties to aggregate retail electric customers ... to provide access to competitive markets...aggregation may provide small customers with similar opportunities to those available to larger customers in obtaining lower electric costs, reliable service, and secure energy supplies. The purpose of aggregation shall be to encourage voluntary, cost effective and innovative solutions to local needs with careful consideration of local conditions and opportunities.” from RSA 53-E:1 Aggregation of Electric Customers by Municipalities and Counties, Statement of Purpose: <http://tinyurl.com/37ddweza>
2. Discussion of Community Power Citizen Petition warrant article at Town Deliberative Session, 02/03/2024 at timestamp 2:22: <http://tinyurl.com/yjeshnpp>

### **Town Article 34 – Citizens Petition: Riverside Park Maintenance and Improvements Capital Reserve Fund**

This Citizen Petition states: “To see if the town will vote to establish a Riverside Park Maintenance and Improvements Capital Reserve Fund [CRF] under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of maintaining and improving Riverside Park, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) to be placed in this fund. This sum is to come from the unassigned fund balance [UFB] and no amount will be raised through future taxation. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund.” (1) There is no new tax impact.

**A YES vote** approves the establishment of a Riverside Park Maintenance and Improvements CRF and moves \$5,000 from the UFB into the new CRF.

**A NO vote** will not create the new CRF or move \$5,000 from the UFB.

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

- To create dedicated funds for maintenance and improvements at Riverside Park, in cooperation with the Raymond Parks Department
- To save funds for long-range projects such as running water for gardens and visitors (2)
- To create potential long-term benefits (e.g., additional recreation opportunities, overall quality of life)
- To require oversight by the BOS on spending from the new CRF

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

- Do not want to use Town funds for Riverside Park
- Prefer using other funds such as user fees and private donations for this purpose
- Lack of specificity on how the CRF fund, if established, might be spent or additional funds raised
- Prefer that Riverside Park maintenance and improvement costs are included in the Operating Budget

#### **References:**

1. RSA 35:1 allows the establishment of Capital Reserve Funds: <http://tinyurl.com/2v9r5y9h>
2. Budget Committee Public Hearing presentation about this Citizen Petition on 1/11/24, timestamp 36:23: <http://tinyurl.com/ya8zyzjb>

## Educate Yourself!

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

[tinyurl.com/3umkanr3](http://tinyurl.com/3umkanr3)

**Review School Voter Information:**

[tinyurl.com/3b2y25h2](http://tinyurl.com/3b2y25h2)

**Review Town Voter Information:**

[tinyurl.com/3hrus22e](http://tinyurl.com/3hrus22e)

**Watch Candidates Night:**

[tinyurl.com/mr42w7zp](http://tinyurl.com/mr42w7zp)

**Make use of all Raymond Community Television resources online:**

[tinyurl.com/mr42w7zp](http://tinyurl.com/mr42w7zp)

Public Service Announcements, Candidates' statements, Town and School Deliberative Sessions, various meetings including School Board, Board of Selectmen, Budget Committee, Planning Board, Conservation Committee, and Ethics Committee.



## GO VOTE!

**Tuesday, March 12, 2024**

**Iber Holmes Gove Middle School**

**7am - 7pm**

**We welcome volunteers! Sign up NOW to help with next year's guide:**

[tinyurl.com/yehntcnf](http://tinyurl.com/yehntcnf)

**Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter:**

[eepurl.com/gJd0nP](http://eepurl.com/gJd0nP)

**RVIP Annual membership dues: \$15  
Donations (tax-deductible) are appreciated**



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The 2024 Voter Information Guide is brought to the Raymond Community free of charge by the Raymond Voter Information Project, donations from Raymond citizens, in-kind contributions, and our Business Donors:

### Ace Ben Franklin Hardware

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### Raymond Area Rotary Club

*Save the Date for Thunder Run 2024 on 9/7/2024*  
[www.raymondarearotary.org](http://www.raymondarearotary.org)

**Raymond Coalition for Youth**  
*RCFY empowers the community to promote positive youth development and reduce youth substance use and suicide risk.*

4 Epping Street, Raymond  
[www.rcfy.org](http://www.rcfy.org)  
 (603) 895-7061/7062

### Tuckaway Tavern & Butchery

58 Route 27, Raymond  
[www.thetuckaway.com](http://www.thetuckaway.com),  
 (603) 244-2431, and

**Vernet Properties**  
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Please remember to thank our business donors.

Donate via PayPal online at [www.raymondvip.org](http://www.raymondvip.org) or by mail at PO Box 813, Raymond, NH 03077. Donations are tax-deductible.

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### Raymond Voter Information Project

*"A well-informed voter has the greatest freedom of choice."*

[www.raymondvip.org](http://www.raymondvip.org)

P.O. Box 813, Raymond, NH 03077

#### 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. RVIP members speak here as citizens and not as members of any elected / appointed Town or School board.

Watch Candidates' Night on RCTV on-demand: <http://tinyurl.com/y84krdfd>

# 2024 Raymond Voter Information Project - For Updates see [www.raymondvip.org](http://www.raymondvip.org)

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

## 2024 Town Warrant Articles

- 1 Town Officials .....
- 2 Zoning: Definition of Impervious Surfaces, etc. ....  Yes  No
- 3 Zoning: Definition of Wetland Buffer .....
- 4 Zoning: Definition of Shoreland Protection Area .....
- 5 Zoning: Wetland Setback Area .....
- 6 Zoning: Area and Dimensional Requirements .....
- 7 Zoning: County Soil Survey Map .....
- 8 Zoning: MUBCOD .....
- 9 Zoning: Definition of Solar Panels .....
- 10 Operating Budget .....
- 11 CBA .....
- 12 CBA Special Meeting .....
- 13 Water Tower Rehabilitation .....
- 14 Bridge and Culvert CRF Deposit .....
- 15 CRFs Appropriations .....
- 16 Town Road Revitalization CRF .....
- 17 Water Department CRFs Appropriations .....
- 18 Shim and Overlay SRF .....
- 19 Road Reconstruction Projects .....
- 20 Social Services Agencies – Child Advocacy Center .....

## 2024 Town Warrant Articles

- 21 Social Services Agencies – Ray-Fre Senior Center .....
- 22 Social Services Agencies – RCFY .....
- 23 Social Services Agencies – County Nutrition Program .....
- 24 Social Services Agencies – Six (6) @ \$500 each .....
- 25 Sick & Vacation Leave Non-Union Trust Fund .....
- 26 Sick and Vacation Leave Union Trust Fund .....
- 27 Town of Raymond Scholarship Fund .....
- 28 Establish Contingency Fund .....
- 29 Stormwater Planning Project (CWSRF Loan) .....
- 30 Waste Disposal SRF (Fund 18) .....
- 31 One Time or Cyclical Procurement CRF .....
- 32 Fire Department Utility Vehicle SRF (Fund 17) .....
- 33 *Petition Warrant Article – Community Power* .....
- 34 *Petition Warrant Article – Riverside Park Capital Reserve Fund* .....

## 2024 School Warrant Articles

- 1 School Officials .....
- 2 Operating Budget .....
- 3 School CRFs .....
- 4 Capital Reserve Funds from Year-End Fund Balance .....

**Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Iber Holmes Gove Middle School – 7 AM to 7 PM**  
*Not an official ballot – for reference only*