



Town of Newton

2024 Voters Guide

Board of Selectmen
3-1-2024

2024 Voters Guide

Article 1

To elect all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

This article is for the election of Town Officers as described. Instructions are included on the ballot.

Article 2

Are you in favor of the adoption of Warrant Article 2 as proposed by the Planning Board to amend SECTION – XXX **-FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE** as necessary to comply with requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program.

A YES vote would mean...

That the properties in the town affected would be able to buy federal floodplain insurance.

A NO vote would mean...

If the Town is not in compliance with federal Floodplain regulations and those properties in Town in the Floodplain would lose their insurance and would have to sue the town to recover any damages.

Article 3

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's zoning ordinances as follows: amend SECTION XII - HOME OCCUPATIONS AND HOME-BASED BUSINESSES, subsection B, 2 to read: There shall be no outdoor activity or use, including storage and parking of commercial vehicles or trailers exceeding 26,000 GVW, except for the provision of employee parking.

A YES vote would mean...

That home-based businesses could use most pickup trucks in their business and park them in their driveways.

A NO vote would mean...

Home-based businesses would either have to buy the smallest sizes of pick-up trucks or find a parking place away from their homes.

Article 4. Road Reconstruction Bond

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000,000 (Gross Budget) to reconstruct approximately twenty-three miles of roads deemed in need of reconstruction as more particularly identified on the 2024 Proposed Road Reconstruction List derived from the Road Management Study of 2024, which list is dated January 26, 2024 and to authorize the issuance of bonds or notes therefore of not more than \$5,000,000 in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and other conditions of the bonds or notes in their judgement, it being further understood that payment of the bond may exceed the project completion date. The overall bonding authority will not lapse until the project is completed but that the project will be completed by December 31, 2034, in annual increments, borrowing for which shall not exceed \$1,000,000 in any given year, and to take all other action relative thereto. This is a special Article in accordance with RSA 32.

(3/5 Ballot Vote Required)

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The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.

This article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.088.

A YES vote would mean...

The Board would seek out a 10-year loan in the amount of 5 million dollars in the form of either a bond or note. The funds would be used to reconstruct twenty three miles of town owned roads. The project would be completed within 10 years and expend no more than 1 million dollars per year.

A NO vote would mean...

No bond or note would be negotiated, and the current conditions of town owned roads would continue to be reconstructed but at a much slower rate.

Article 5. Operating Budget

Shall the Town of Newton raise and appropriate as an Operating Budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$4,519,182. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$4,411,588, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Newton or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. Majority Vote Required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.

The proposed operating budget has an estimated tax impact of \$0.57.

The default budget has an estimated tax impact of \$0.40.

A YES vote would mean...

\$4,519,182.00 will be raised to fund the operating costs of the Town. This is an increase of \$107,594.00 over the default budget.

A NO vote would mean...

\$4,411,588.00 will be raised to fund the operating costs of the Town.

Article 6. Recreation Revolving Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be deposited into the Recreation Revolving Fund, previously established, to fund programs including a part time coordinator position. Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.

This article has no tax impact.

A YES vote would mean...

This article will take \$50,000 from the Unassigned Fund Balance to be deposited into the Recreation Revolving Fund. The funds could then be used to fund recreation activities and a part-time coordinator.

A NO vote would mean...

No funds would be transferred to the Recreation Revolving Fund.

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Article 7. Lease of Town Owned Land

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey an easement, license, or leasehold interest on a portion of the property owned by the Town of Newton located behind the transfer station, identified as Tax Map 10, Block 7 Lot 5-1, with access from Maple Avenue, for a period not to exceed 20 years for the purposes of constructing, installing, and operating a communications tower, in such dimensions and under such terms and consideration as the Board of Selectmen, in its discretion, deems suitable, and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute such related contracts and agreements related to such communications tower. Such authority shall not lapse and shall remain effective until December 31, 2025. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.

There is no tax impact.

A YES vote would mean...

A communications company would be able to install a communications tower on the site. The Town would lease, provide an easement and/or license the land for 20 years to the company. Any income would be in the unassigned fund balance until the voters decide what to use the funds for.

A NO vote would mean...

No communications tower would be allowed on the lot.

Article 8. Town Buildings Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be deposited into the Town Buildings Capital Reserve Fund established in 2006. Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.

This article has no tax impact.

A YES vote would mean...

As directed by a vote of the Board of Selectmen, the funds can be used to offset the cost of repairs, maintenance, or improvements of Town-owned buildings.

A NO vote would mean...

All funds will remain in the Unassigned Fund Balance. Minimal repairs/maintenance on Town-owned buildings would be the only thing done. Major repairs which might include life safety issues would need to be raised through taxation.

Article 9. Police Cruisers and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, as proposed by the Police Chief, the sum of **\$35,000.00** to be deposited into the “**Police Cruisers and Equipment**” Capital Reserve Fund created in 2021. Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance with no monies to be raised by taxation. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.

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This article has no tax impact.

A YES vote would mean...

This article will take \$35,000 from the Unassigned Fund Balance to be deposited into the Capital Reserve Fund. The fund can only be used by a vote of the Board of Selectmen for repairs, maintenance, or purchase of cruisers or equipment.

A NO vote would mean...

No funds will be added to the Capital Reserve Fund.

Article 10. Fire Apparatus and Equipment / Refurbishment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be deposited into the Fire Apparatus and Equipment / Refurbishment Capital Reserve Fund established in 2005 and amended in 2011. Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.

This article has no tax impact.

A YES vote would mean...

This article will take \$50,000 from the Unassigned Fund Balance to be deposited into the Capital Reserve Fund. The fund can only be used by a vote of the Board of Selectmen for repairs, maintenance, and purchase of fire apparatus.

A NO vote would mean...

No funds will be added to the Capital Reserve Fund.

Article 11. Highway Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35, to be known as the Highway Vehicle and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing, maintaining, repairing, and improving or replacing the Town's Highway Department vehicles and equipment and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be placed in the fund and to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from such fund. Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.

This article has no tax impact.

A YES vote would mean...

Will establish a new capital reserve fund to fund the Highway Department. The funds could be used to purchase needed equipment such as a dump truck, shovels, or other needed tools. It can also be used to make repairs to existing equipment.

A NO vote would mean...

The fund will not be established. Any funds needed for purchases, repairs, maintenance, etc., would be raised through taxation.

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Article 12. Town Anniversary Revolving Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Revolving Fund, pursuant to RSA 35, which will be known as the Town Anniversary Revolving Fund and raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to be placed in this fund the purpose of which shall be to support the celebration of the town's 275th anniversary and future anniversaries and appoint the selectmen as agents to expend from the fund. Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.

This article has no tax impact.

A YES vote would mean...

Will open a new fund and could only be used for the 275th or future town anniversaries.

A NO vote would mean...

No new fund will be created, and any expenses would need to be raised through donations or taxation.

Article 13. Cyclical Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35 to be known as the Cyclical Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of funding the five-year property valuation pursuant to NH RSA 75:8-a and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be placed in the fund and to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from such fund. Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.

This article has no tax impact.

A YES vote would mean...

A new capital reserve fund would be opened and \$50,000 would be deposited into the account. The funds would be used to offset the cost of revaluation of property within the Town. By law, the Town is required to reevaluate properties within its boundaries every 5 years.

A NO vote would mean...

The fund would not be created. The Town would need to raise the funds for the reevaluation every 5 years. The last reevaluation cost was \$100,000.00.

Article 14. Highway Construction Revolving Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 to be deposited into the Highway Construction Revolving Fund. Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Account. Majority vote required.

This article is contingent upon Article 4; if the Town Meeting approves Article 4, then this Article shall be null and void.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.

This article has no tax impact.

A YES vote would mean...

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This article will take \$50,000 from the Unassigned Fund Balance to be deposited into the Capital Reserve Fund and be used for road repairs/maintenance. The fund can only be used by a vote of the Board of Selectmen. Should Article 4 pass then this article will not take affect even if it is passed. If both articles fail, then minimal road work will be done.

NO vote would mean...

No funds would be deposited into the existing funds.

Article 15. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Compensation

To see if the Town will vote to approve, pursuant to the provisions of RSA 41:25, in lieu of base salary and fees, to change the compensation of the Town Clerk & Tax Collector to a Salary basis only, with all fees collected being returned to the town, and to authorize the Select Board to make subsequent adjustments to the Town Clerk & Tax Collector's salary on an annual basis, to be effective immediately following March 2024 elections. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.

This article has no tax impact.

A YES vote would mean...

The Town Clerk/Tax Collector would be paid a consistent monetary salary, meaning each pay period would be the same amount, and would be eligible for NH State Retirement.

A NO vote would mean...

The Town Clerk/Tax Collector would continue to be paid by fees, leaving the position with inconsistent pay periods, and would not be eligible for NH State Retirement.

Article 16. Social Service Agencies

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,363.00** for the following **Community Services**. Agencies listed below. Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Majority vote required.

AREA HOMECARE & FAMILY SERVICES	\$3,800.00
CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER	2,000.00
DRUGS ARE DANGEROUS	2,500.00
HAVEN	3,050.00
NHSPCA	750.00
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION	5,000.00
ROCKINGHAM NUTRITION MEALS ON WHEELS	2,927.00
ROCKINGHAM NUTRITION MEALS ON WHEELS TRANSPORTATION	700.00
SOROCK COALITION FOR HEALTHY YOUTH	4,936.00
VIC GEARY CENTER	2,700.00
WAYPOINT (f/k/a CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES)	<u>2,000.00</u>
	\$ 30,363.00

This article is contingent upon the Town Meeting approval of Article 5 (proposed 2024 operating budget),and if the Town Meeting approves Article 5, this Article shall be null and void.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.

This article would result in an estimated \$0.047 increase per \$1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes.

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This article will allow the Town to pay for certain community services for the residents. The list of service providers in the article represent services used/offered to town residents and are used by the Newton Police Department, the Newton Fire Department, and the Newton Welfare Department.

A YES vote would mean...

The Community Services listed will be funded as summarized and offset the costs to the Town.

A NO vote would mean...

This type of assistance that is provided to Newton residents in need would come out of the Operating Budget.

Article 17. Fire and Rescue Ambulance Program Revolving Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Revolving Fund under the provisions of RSA 35 to be known as the Fire and Rescue Ambulance Program Revolving Fund for the purpose of employee wages, training, and maintaining the necessary equipment to provide town operated, 24-hour fire and ambulance services to the town and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$233,720 to be placed in the fund and to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from such fund. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.

This article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.36.

A YES vote would mean...

A new fund would be established with \$233,720.00 being deposited into the fund. Said fund would then be used for implementing a 24/7 manned first responder station that would provide the town with ambulance and fire services.

A NO vote would mean...

No fund would be established. The station would remain unmanned 24/7. Ambulance service would be provided via a contract.

Article 18. Cemetery Trustees Stipend

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,200 for the purpose of providing an annual \$400 stipend to each of the three Cemetery Trustees. Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Account. Majority vote required.

If this article passes these funds will be part of the Cemetery operating budget in subsequent years.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.

This article has no tax impact.

A YES vote would mean...

Each of the three (3) Trustees would receive an annual stipend of \$ 400.00 for the work they do maintaining the cemeteries, providing assistance to current and future grave owners, working with families, burial companies, landscapers, and local funeral homes.

A NO vote would mean...

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There would be no change in the current services provided by the Trustees. The only issue might be in getting replacements for the current board of Trustees as they retire.

Article 19. Contingency Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a contingency fund, pursuant to the provisions of RSA 31:98- a, for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate \$40,000 to put in the fund. Said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.

This article has no tax impact.

A YES vote would mean...

A new fund would be established. The funds would be used for unforeseen expenses that were not budgeted for.

A NO vote would mean...

No fund would be established, and any unforeseen expenses would need to be raised through taxation.

Article 20. Town Cisterns and Fire Ponds Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be deposited into the Town Cisterns and Fire Ponds Capital Reserve Fund established in 2023. Said funds to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.

This article has no tax impact.

A YES vote would mean...

Would add \$50,000 to the existing fund that would be used to repair and maintain cisterns and fire ponds. These are the only sources of water the town when fighting fires.

A NO vote would mean...

No funds would be added to the fund.

Article 21. Lake Host Program (by petition)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) to support a Lake Host Program at the Newton Town Boat Ramp for the 2024 summer season. The Lake Host Program is a collaborative effort between NH Department of Environmental Services, NH LAKES, and local lake associations. It trains and employs individuals to provide courtesy boat inspections to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive plants, such as milfoil, from one lake to another thereby protecting public lake uses such as swimming, fishing, and boating. Majority vote required.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends a yes vote.

This article has an estimated tax impact of \$0.005.

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A YES vote would mean...

The program will continue to educate boaters about invasive plants and provide a free voluntary inspection of boats and trailers.

A NO vote would mean...

No funds will be available to support the program and the program may not run in 2024.

10 YEAR CHART OF NEWTON NH TAX RATES

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Municipal Tax Rate	3.36	3.67	3.65	3.65	3.91	3.68	3.09	3.53	3.73	3.63
Local School Tax Rate	19.51	19.38	19.27	19.64	18.36	19.37	15.20	14.82	16.61	18.25
State Ed Tax Rate	2.11	2.12	2.23	2.25	2.27	2.26	1.80	1.75	1.25	1.90
County Tax Rate	.96	1.00	1.01	1.04	1.04	1.07	.81	.80	.90	.83
TOTAL tax per \$1,000 of valuation	25.94	26.17	26.16	26.58	25.58	26.38	20.90	20.90	22.49	24.61

Total 2023 Tax Rate: \$24.61 per \$1,000.00 Taxable Valuation



