

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
TOWN OF EPPING**

TOWN MEETING WARRANT

To the inhabitants of the Town of Epping, County of Rockingham, in the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in town affairs:

FIRST SESSION

You are hereby notified to meet for the First (Deliberative) Session of the annual town meeting, to be held at the Epping Town Hall, Epping, NH on the Third day of February 2026 being Tuesday, at seven in the evening (7:00 P.M.). The First (Deliberative) Session will consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of each of the following warrant articles, and will afford those voters who are present the opportunity to propose, debate and adopt amendments to each warrant article, except those articles whose wording is prescribed by state law.

SECOND SESSION

You are also notified to meet for the Second Session of the annual town meeting, to elect town officers by official ballot and to vote by official ballot on the warrant articles as they may have been amended at the First Session, to be held at the Epping O'Day School Gymnasium, Epping, NH on the Tenth day of March 2026, being Tuesday, at seven o'clock in the forenoon (the polls are to be open at 7:00 A.M. and may not close prior to 7:00 P.M.) to act upon the following:

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

ARTICLE 1: TO CHOOSE NECESSARY TOWN OFFICERS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR:

- Three Budget Committee Members for three (3) years
- Two Cemetery Trustees for three (3) years
- One Library Trustee for three (3) years
- One Moderator for two (2) years
- One Planning Board Member for three (3) years
- One Selectmen for three (3) years
- One Supervisor of the Checklist for six (6) years
- One Trustee of Trust Funds for three (3) years
- One Water and Sewer Commission Member for three (3) years
- One Water and Sewer Commission Member for one (1) year
- One Zoning Board of Adjustment Member for three (3) years

ARTICLE 2: AMEND ZONING ORDINANCE ARTICLE 19

Are you in favor of the amendment to Article 19 of the Epping Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the planning board, related to regulations of signs? A copy of the full text of the amendment is available for inspection at the Epping Town Clerk's Office.

[Recommended by the Planning Board 5-0]

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 3: AMEND ZONING ORDINANCE ARTICLE 6

Are you in favor of the amendment to Article 6 of the Epping Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the planning board, related to temporary housing? A copy of the full text of the amendment is available for inspection at the Epping Town Clerk's Office.

[Recommended by the Planning Board 5-0]

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 4: BOND TO PERFORM WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Eight Million Dollars (\$38,000,000.00) (gross budget) for the purpose of a wastewater treatment facility upgrade, that will qualify the Town for federal and state funds, and to authorize the issuance of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) in the amount of Thirty Eight Million Dollars (\$38,000,000.00); to authorize the Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes, and to determine the interest rate thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; to apply for, obtain, accept and expend federal, state, or other aid, grants or other funds, if any which may be available for said project that may reduce the amount to be financed with bonds and notes, and, if available, to participate in the State Revolving Fund (SRF) RSA 486.14 established for this purpose, and to expend such monies as become available; and to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. It is the intention of the Town that the bond or note repayment shall be paid for by general taxation.

[Recommended by the Select Board 5-0]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0]

[Recommended by Water & Sewer Commission 3-0]

3/5 Ballot Vote Required

ARTICLE 5: 2026 OPERATING BUDGET

Shall the town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount 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 Fourteen Million, Sixty Six Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty Dollars (\$14,066,120.00). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Thirteen Million, Six Hundred Sixty Two Thousand, Two Hundred and Forty One Dollars (\$13,662,241.00), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the town 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.

[Recommended by the Select Board 5-0]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0]

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 6: LANDFILL CLOSURE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation.

[Recommended by the Select Board 5-0]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0]

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 7: GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Government Buildings Expendable Trust Fund. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation.

[Recommended by Select Board 5-0]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0]

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 8: ACCRUED BENEFITS EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Accrued Benefits Expendable Trust Fund. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation.

[Recommended by the Select Board 5-0]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0]

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 9: WATSON ACADEMY REPAIRS EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Watson Academy Repairs Expendable Trust Fund. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation.

[Recommended by Select Board 5-0]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0]

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 10: NATURAL EVENT EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Natural Event Expendable Trust Fund.

[Recommended by the Select Board 4-1]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 7-3]

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 11: GENERAL ASSISTANCE EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be placed in the previously established General Assistance Expendable Trust Fund. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation.

[Recommended by the Select Board 4-1]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0]

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 12: COMBINE THE POSITIONS OF TOWN CLERK AND TAX COLLECTOR

To see if the town will vote to combine the positions of the Town Clerk and the Tax Collector to create one position of Town Clerk–Tax Collector, with the term of office to be three years. If approved, the town shall choose by ballot at the next annual meeting one individual as Town Clerk–Tax Collector; any individual then in office as Town Clerk or Tax Collector shall cease, and the newly elected Town Clerk–Tax Collector shall take office.

[Recommended by the Select Board 5-0]

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 13: MODIFY OPTIONAL SERVICE-CONNECTED TOTAL DISABILITY CREDIT

To see if the town will vote in accordance with RSA 72:35 to modify the optional tax credit on residential property for a Service-Connected Total and Permanent Disability from \$4,000.00 to \$4,750.00. If passed, this tax credit would become effective for the 2026 Tax Year.

[Recommended by the Select Board 5-0]

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 14: RACE TRACK BY-LAWS

To see if the town will vote to repeal the “By-Laws Relating to the Regulation and Licensing of Motor Vehicle Race Tracks,” as amended by Article 18, March 2021 Town Meeting, and adopt the “Town of Epping, New Hampshire By-Laws Relating to the Regulation and Licensing of Motor Vehicle Race Tracks” as proposed by the Board of Selectmen, a copy of which is on file at the Town Clerk’s Office.

[Recommended by the Select Board 5-0]

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 15: BY PETITION: EPPING YOUTH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

By Petition: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) to support the Epping Youth Athletic Association.

[Recommended by the Select Board 4-0]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 10-0]

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 16: BY PETITION: COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

By Petition: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eleven Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$11,300.00) for the purpose of funding Community Action Partnership Hillsborough and Rockingham Counties (formerly Rockingham Community Action), for its work in providing fuel, utilities, food, homeless and housing assistance, and budgeting education/support to Epping residents in crisis to move them toward self-sufficiency.

[Recommended by the Select Board 4-0]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0]

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 17: BY PETITION: READY RIDES

By Petition: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) to support Ready Rides, a non-profit that provides free rides to medical appointments for people who are disabled or over 55 years old residing in Epping and surrounding communities.

[Recommended by the Select Board 4-0]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0]

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 18: BY PETITION: COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S FUND

By Petition: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) for the purpose of supporting services provided to residents by the Community Children's Fund (CCF). The CCF raises funds to provide warm clothing and bedding to needy children in the 12 communities served by the Exeter Area Charitable Foundation. Since 1989 the CCF has helped thousands of children through clothing vouchers and direct aid through the schools. Epping children received \$10,280 in clothing vouchers and direct aid to the schools in 2023.

[Recommended by the Select Board 4-0]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0]

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 19: BY PETITION: WAYPOINT AT THE RICHIE MCFARLAND CENTER

By Petition: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$8,100.00) for Waypoint at The Richie McFarland Center's early intervention program that serves children from birth to three years of age and their families. This investment will support the cost of providing early childhood special education, pediatric therapies, and family support services to Epping residents. This past year, forty-five (45) children and their families were served. This request helps support the annual cost for weekly home-based services.

[Recommended by the Select Board 4-0]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0]

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 20: BY PETITION: MEALS ON WHEELS OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

By Petition: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000.00) to enable Meals on Wheels of Rockingham County to continue to provide the meals and transportation services to older Epping residents.

[Recommended by the Select Board 4-0]

[Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 9-0]

Majority Vote Required

ARTICLE 21: BY PETITION: VOTING LOCATION

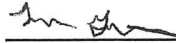
By Petition: Shall the Town vote to compel the Epping School Board to allow all voting to occur in the Allen Gymnasium?

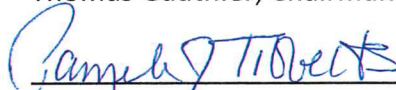
[Recommended by the Select Board 2-2]

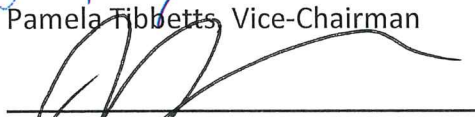
Majority Vote Required

Given under our hand and seal and ordered posted this 20th day of January, 2026:

THE EPPING BOARD OF SELECTMEN:


Thomas Gauthier, Chairman

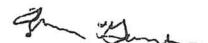

Pamela Tibbetts, Vice-Chairman



Joseph Trombley, Selectman


H. Clifton Cray, Selectman

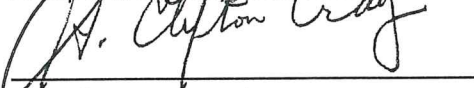

Caitlin McCormack, Selectman

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:


Thomas Gauthier, Chairman


Pamela Tibbetts, Vice-Chairman


Joseph Trombley, Selectman


H. Clifton Cray, Selectman


Caitlin McCormack, Selectman