

Town of Barrington, New Hampshire



2023 Town Meeting Voter Guide

**VOTE on Tuesday, March 28*, 2023
8:00am to 7:00pm – Barrington Middle School**

**Postponed from March 14th pursuant to RSA 669:1 V*

**Electronic Version, Sample Ballots, and Additional
Details: www.barrington.nh.gov/2023warrant**



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TOWN OF BARRINGTON

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Office of the Select Board

2023 Town Meeting Voter Guide

Article 1 Election of Town Officers

Select Board: Two for 3-year term

Morgan Carter
Kenneth Grant
Tracy Hardekopf
Michael D. Houst
Robert W. Russell
James Saccoccia

Cemetery Trustees: One for 3-year term

Richard "Rick" Walker

Library Trustees: Two for 3-year term

Susan Young Gaudiello
Randal Heller
Frank Natale
Karolina Bodner

Trustee of Trust Funds: One for 3-year term

Patricia Gingrich

Explanation: The filing period for Town Offices was from Wednesday, January 25, 2023 through Friday, February 3, 2023.

A Candidate Forum is scheduled for February 16, 2023 starting at 6:30pm. Details, including virtual participation, are available by scanning the QR code to the right and at www.barrington.nh.gov/2023CandidateForum. A video recording of the forum will be available at the same webpage following February 16, 2023.



Article 2 Zoning

Are you in favor of Amendment #1 to the Barrington Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board to amend the Zoning Map by changing Tax Map 251, Lots 64 & 65 from General Residential (GR) to Regional Commercial (RC)?

This amendment is recommended for approval by the Planning Board 7-0.

Explanation: The purpose of this amendment is to zone these two parcels (near Bumford Rd. off Route 125) for uses that are consistent with their current (legally existing) commercial use and to allow for commercial development in this location in the future. The existing General Residential (GR) zone allows residential development, the proposed Regional Commercial (RC) zone allows commercial or residential development. Scan the QR code to the right to view a map showing the proposed zoning change.





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Article 3 Zoning

Are you in favor of Amendment #2 to the Barrington Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board to amend Section 7.3 regarding home occupations to clarify that home occupations must be conducted entirely within the structure of the single-family dwelling, to limit the 30% square footage maximum to 500 square feet, and to limit the number of non-resident employees to one?

This amendment is recommended for approval by the Planning Board 7-0.

***Explanation:** The purpose of this amendment is to clarify the original intention of this section and to ensure that the Home Occupation remains secondary and incidental to the primary residential use. The existing language does not include a limit on the number of non-resident employees operating out of a home. Home Occupation licenses are intended for start-up and small businesses and are issued by the Building Inspector at no cost to the applicant.*

Article 4 Zoning

Are you in favor of Amendment #3 to the Barrington Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board to amend Section 7.4(7) regarding home businesses to clarify that the entire home business, including storage, is limited to an accessory or primary dwelling structure or an outside area which is adequately screened, and to reduce the amount of area the home business may occupy from 4,500 square feet to 2,000 square feet or 10% of the lot, whichever is less?

This amendment is recommended for approval by the Planning Board 7-0.

***Explanation:** The purpose of this amendment is to clarify the original intention of this section and to ensure that the Home Business remains secondary and incidental to the primary residential use. Home Business licenses are intended for a growing small business and are reviewed by the Planning Board through their Site Review process, at a cost, which includes notice to abutters. A Home Business allows more business activities than a Home Occupation.*



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Article 5 Zoning

Are you in favor of Amendment #4 to the Barrington Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board to amend the Zoning Map by changing Tax Map 234, Lots 57, 57.1, 57.2, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 77, and 79 from the Town Center (TC) to Village (V)?

This amendment is recommended for approval by the Planning Board 7-0.

***Explanation:** The purpose of this amendment is to allow the development of a mixture of single family & multifamily development in close proximity to the Town Center (TC). Most of these lots only have road frontage on Oak Hill Road with limited commercial exposure. The existing Town Center (TC) zone prioritizes commercial development, the proposed Village (V) zone allows residential development in addition to allowing mixed use and commercial development. Scan the QR code to the right to view a map showing the proposed zoning change.*



Article 6 Zoning

Are you in favor of Amendment #5 to the Barrington Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board to amend Article 18 Definitions for Attached Building: A building having any portion of ~~one (1) or more walls in common with adjoining buildings.~~ **connected by a common roof?**

This amendment is recommended for approval by the Planning Board 7-0.

***Explanation:** The purpose of this amendment is to clarify the original intention of the attached building definition. The existing definition was deemed insufficient to meet the original intention because an open-air wall between two separate buildings would qualify as an 'Attached Building'.*

Article 7 Zoning

Are you in favor of Amendment #6 to the Barrington Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board to amend Section 20.8.4 regarding temporary signs to increase the allowance for additional temporary signs from 30 to 60 days prior to an election in all zoning districts, provided they comply with the requirements of the ordinance?

This amendment is recommended for approval by the Planning Board 6-1.

***Explanation:** The purpose of this amendment is to increase the timeframe for all additional temporary signs. Currently two temporary signs are allowed on lots. The existing language allows more than two temporary signs (regardless of content) within 30 days of an election. The proposed language would increase the allowance for additional temporary signs to 60 days before an election.*



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Article 8 Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to 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 \$8,279,529? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$8,005,978, 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. [Majority Vote Required]. This article is projected to add 24 cents/1,000 to the 2023 tax rate or \$78 to the tax bill on a \$325,000 property.

This article is recommended for approval by the Advisory Budget Committee 5-0.

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 5-0.

Explanation: The annual operating budget covers all Town departments including but not limited to, Fire/EMS, Police, Highway, Recreation, and the Town Offices. The Select Board and Advisory Budget Committee began review of budget proposals in September of 2022. Throughout the review process, they worked to balance the level of services provided by the Town with inflation and a growing population. The 2023 budget proposal represents an 8% increase (consistent with the average rate of inflation for 2022) and non-property tax revenue represents a 7% increase. At \$3, the Town's property tax rate is 15% of the total tax rate. Inflation made the largest impact on the 2023 budget including vehicle fuel, heating fuel, electricity, paving, salt, staffing, and benefit costs. The entire budget binder and line-item budget is available by scanning the QR code to the right and at www.barrington.nh.gov/2023budget.





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Article 9 Town Center Tax Increment Financing District

To see if the Town will vote to:

- Establish the Town Center Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District in accordance with RSA 162-K (adopted by Barrington Town Meeting in 1988). The proposed district includes 205 properties along Routes 125 and 9 in the greater Town Center and Village zoning districts as represented in the map found in Section 5 of the Development Program and Financing Plan adopted by the Select Board on December 12, 2022.
- Adopt the provisions of the Town Center TIF District Development Program and Financing Plan adopted by the Select Board on December 12, 2022 in accordance with RSA 162-K:6 and RSA 162-K:9. Copies of the Town Center TIF District Map, Development Program, and Financing Plan are available at the Town Hall and online at www.barrington.nh.gov/tif.
- Authorize the Select Board to appoint the District Administrator in accordance with RSA 162-K:13 and to create a five-member Advisory Board in accordance with RSA 162-K:14, with the Advisory Board membership to be determined by the Select Board.

[Majority Vote Required].

This article is recommended for approval by the Advisory Budget Committee 3-2.

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 5-0.

Explanation: A TIF District is an instrument to spur economic development in Barrington's Town Center. Barrington has focused much time and energy on the development of a Town Center. This has included the [1988 Adoption of RSA 162-K](#), [2003 Master Plan Update](#), [2007 Town Center Plan](#), [2008 Adoption of the Town Center Zoning District](#), [2014 Community Profile](#), [2019 Recreation Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan](#), [updates to the Master Plan](#), and various changes to the [Zoning Ordinance](#) and [Zoning Map](#) focused on the Town Center. The vision for this part of Barrington has always included a quaint, safe, walkable Town Center with extensive civic use/open space which support the desire for commercial development. A TIF District invests NEW tax dollars, from new business and residential additions within the district, to promote the goals of the District, including civic use public facilities, utilities, and transportation.

At [Town Meeting in 1988](#), Barrington voters adopted the provisions of [RSA 162-K](#) which authorizes TIF Districts. This first step of the process laid the foundation to allow the Select Board to propose TIF districts for voter approval. In 2022, the Planning Board and Select Board had numerous conversations around accomplishing the Town's goals for the Town Center. At the center of those conversations was how to pay for investments in the civic use/open space of the Town Center. Both Boards felt that a TIF District was a great way to stimulate the incremental tax value from commercial development in order to promote additional commercial development. Additional details including the full Development Program and Frequently Asked Questions are available by scanning the QR code to the right and at www.barrington.nh.gov/tif.





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Articles 10-21

A Note on Unassigned Fund Balance

Barrington's unassigned fund balance (like a savings account) ensures cash-flow, continuity of municipal services, and tax rate stability. It is important to maintain an appropriate amount in unassigned fund balance to reduce financial risks, reduce borrowing costs, and to continue the orderly operation of government. Barrington targets 12.5% of regular general fund operating expenditures (the midpoint of the 8%-17% NHDRA recommended range). Unassigned fund balance primarily comes from unspent money in the Town's budget and collecting more revenue than anticipated. The unassigned fund balance is typically used to offset or 'buy down' the tax rate either indirectly or directly. It can also be used for emergency appropriations with DRA approval. Scan the QR code to the right to view the unassigned fund balance chapter of the 2023 budget binder.



Indirect Use of Unassigned Fund Balance to Offset the Tax Rate

Unassigned Fund Balance is indirectly used to offset the tax rate as a funding source for warrant articles. If a warrant article is funded by unassigned fund balance, then those funds will not need to be separately raised by taxes. For example, the Town sets money aside each year into capital reserve accounts to plan for large expenditures; in 2022 these contributions ranged from \$150,000 for Highway equipment to \$3,000 for Library technology. Using unassigned fund balance in this way helps to achieve voter support for responsible financial planning. This is the way that Barrington has utilized unassigned fund balance in recent years.

Direct Use of Unassigned Fund Balance to Offset the Tax Rate

Each year, during tax rate setting, the governing body of a municipality can commit a portion of unassigned fund balance to offset the tax rate. This method utilizes funds available in the 'savings account' to offset an increase to the tax rate. Using unassigned fund balance in this way can introduce instability in the tax rate if it is not managed carefully.

2023 Planned Utilization

Based on advice from the Advisory Budget Committee (ABC), the Select Board plans to try direct utilization of unassigned fund balance to offset the tax rate in 2023. This means that all warrant articles will be presented with the tax rate as a funding source. Residents and the ABC have articulated that it is more transparent to present warrant articles on the tax rate versus unassigned fund balance. In October of 2023, the Select Board will review the amount of unassigned fund balance in excess of 12.5% and they plan to commit that amount to offset the tax rate. It is estimated that \$688,575 will be available to directly offset the tax rate. If all of the proposed warrant articles pass, that means that \$364,967 would remain on the tax rate, representing \$0.26 cents on the tax rate or \$83 on a \$325,000 property.



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Article 10 Bridge and Culvert Capital Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000 to be added to the Bridge and Culvert Capital Reserve Fund previously established. [Majority Vote Required]. Note: This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 8, the operating budget article. This article is projected to add 21 cents/1,000 to the 2023 tax rate or \$68 to the tax bill on a \$325,000 property.

This article is recommended for approval by the Advisory Budget Committee 5-0.

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 5-0.

***Explanation:** This savings account is primarily used for engineering to make bridge and culvert projects 'contract/bid ready' to secure grants for construction. It can also be used for construction if alternative funding sources are not available. Recently the Mallego Road Bridge over the Mallego Brook was replaced with 80% State funding. The Greenhill Road Bridge over the Isinglass River will be replaced in 2023 with 80% State funding. Anticipated upcoming projects in the design phase include the three Young Road causeways along Swains Lake, the culverts at the outfall of Swains Lake Dam, and the Pond Hill Road culverts flowing into Ayers Lake.*

Article 11 Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200,000 to be added to the Highway Heavy Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. [Majority Vote Required]. Note: This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 8, the operating budget article. This article is projected to add 14 cents/1,000 to the 2023 tax rate or \$45 to the tax bill on a \$325,000 property.

This article is recommended for approval by the Advisory Budget Committee 5-0.

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 5-0.

***Explanation:** Contributions and utilization of this capital reserve are guided by a comprehensive equipment replacement schedule which is updated annually: Scan the QR code to the right to view the [Highway Equipment Replacement Schedule 20220919](https://www.barrington.nh.gov/20220919). This savings account is primarily used to save for large Highway Department equipment purchases. Recently the Highway Department replaced one of the 15-year-old six-wheeled plow trucks and an F550. Anticipated upcoming replacements include aging plowing trucks, loaders, and the grader.*





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Article 12 Fire Truck Capital Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be added to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. [Majority Vote Required]. Note: This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 8, the operating budget article. This article is projected to add 7 cents/1,000 to the 2023 tax rate or \$23 to the tax bill on a \$325,000 property.

This article is recommended for approval by the Advisory Budget Committee 5-0.

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 5-0.

***Explanation:** Contributions and utilization of this capital reserve are guided by a comprehensive equipment replacement schedule which is updated annually: Scan the QR code to the right to view the [Fire/EMS Truck Replacement Schedule 20220919](#). This savings account is primarily used to save for large Fire Department vehicle/apparatus purchases. Anticipated upcoming replacements include the Forestry Truck, 2008 F450 Ambulance, and Engine 1. At their November 28, 2022 meeting, the Select Board approved the Fire Department's recommendation to pursue a bid advertisement to refurbish (instead of replace) Engine 1. Initiatives like this help save taxpayer dollars.*



Article 13 Fire and Rescue Equipment Capital Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Fire and Rescue Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. [Majority Vote Required]. Note: This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 8, the operating budget article. This article is projected to add 0.7 cents/1,000 to the 2023 tax rate or \$2 to the tax bill on a \$325,000 property.

This article is recommended for approval by the Advisory Budget Committee 5-0.

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 5-0.

***Explanation:** This savings account is primarily used to save for large and/or infrequent Fire and Rescue equipment purchases. Anticipated upcoming purchases include an exhaust vent system for the apparatus bays, cardiac monitors, and a power cot.*



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Article 14 Dam Repair/Engineering/Replacement Capital Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 to be added to the Dam Repair/Engineering/Replacement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. [Majority Vote Required]. Note: This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 8, the operating budget article. This article is projected to add 10 cents/1,000 to the 2023 tax rate or \$34 to the tax bill on a \$325,000 property.

This article is recommended for approval by the Advisory Budget Committee 5-0.

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 5-0.

***Explanation:** This savings account is primarily used for engineering and repair of the Swains Lake Dam. Recently the Town performed above-water repairs to the concrete spillway. The Town also performed an underwater inspection which recommended additional repairs. Anticipated upcoming projects include underwater repair of the concrete spillway and construction of a rip-rap filter consistent with the NHDES Letter of Deficiency.*

Article 15 Police Equipment Capital Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,000 to be added to the Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. [Majority Vote Required]. Note: This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 8, the operating budget article. This article is projected to add 0.8 cents/1,000 to the 2023 tax rate or \$2 to the tax bill on a \$325,000 property.

This article is recommended for approval by the Advisory Budget Committee 5-0.

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 5-0.

***Explanation:** Contributions and utilization of this capital reserve are guided by a comprehensive equipment replacement schedule which is updated annually: Scan the QR code to the right to view the [Police Equipment Capital Reserve Narrative 20221012](#). This savings account is primarily used to save for large and/or infrequent Police equipment purchases. Anticipated upcoming purchases include body cameras, tasers, radars, and communications equipment. In 2022, the Police Department secured a \$100,000 grant to fund computer upgrades. This grant allowed the department to accelerate the replacement schedule and request less of a contribution in 2023 (\$11,000 vs. \$90,000 in 2022).*





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Article 16 Paving and Related Road Work Non-Lapsing Article

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for road paving and reconstruction. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation pursuant to RSA 32:7, V and will not lapse until December 31, 2024. [Majority Vote Required]. Note: This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 8, the operating budget article. This article is projected to add 7 cents/1,000 to the 2023 tax rate or \$23 to the tax bill on a \$325,000 property.

This article is recommended for approval by the Advisory Budget Committee 5-0.

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 5-0.

***Explanation:** This non-lapsing article raises additional money to address Barrington's [Pavement Management Plan](#) (scan the QR code to the right to view the plan). A primary goal of this plan is to protect the Town's investment by properly maintaining good roads to make funds available to reconstruct bad roads. This \$100,000 is in addition to the \$650,000 included in the 2023 operating budget.*



Article 17 Emergency Communications Upgrades Capital Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be added to the Communications Upgrades for Emergency Services Capital Reserve Fund previously established. [Majority Vote Required]. Note: This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 8, the operating budget article. This article is projected to add 3 cents/1,000 to the 2023 tax rate or \$11 to the tax bill on a \$325,000 property.

This article is recommended for approval by the Advisory Budget Committee 5-0.

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 5-0.

***Explanation:** This savings account is primarily used to save for radio equipment and communication tower upgrades. In 2022, Barrington added a repeater to the Ramsdell Lane tower to improve the Highway Department radio communications channel. Additionally, the Town made improvements to the Fire and Rescue Department communications district. Anticipated upcoming purchases include replacing 15-year-old radios across the Fire, Police, and Highway Departments.*



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Article 18 Transfer Station and Recycling Center Capital Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Transfer Station and Recycling Center Capital Reserve Fund previously established. [Majority Vote Required]. Note: This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 8, the operating budget article. This article is projected to add 1.8 cents/1,000 to the 2023 tax rate or \$6 to the tax bill on a \$325,000 property.

This article is recommended for approval by the Advisory Budget Committee 3-2.

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 5-0.

***Explanation:** This savings account is primarily used to save for future improvements to the Transfer Station and Recycling Center facility. The Select Board established a [Transfer Station and Recycling Center Review Committee](#) (scan the QR code to the right to view the committee's webpage) which is charged with reviewing and recommending changes to the operation and flow of the facility.*



Article 19 Library and Community Center Capital Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Library and Community Center Capital Reserve Fund previously established. [Majority Vote Required]. Note: This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 8, the operating budget article. This article is projected to add 1.8 cents/1,000 to the 2023 tax rate or \$6 to the tax bill on a \$325,000 property.

This article is not recommended for approval by the Advisory Budget Committee 3-2.

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 3-2.

***Explanation:** This savings account was primarily established to support the design and construction of a new library in Barrington. In 2023, the Library Trustees plan to utilize the available funds to redesign a library proposal for presentation to voters in March of 2024.*



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Article 20 Energy Capital Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to establish an Energy Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of funding renewable energy projects and outreach initiatives related to increasing energy efficiency and/or reducing energy costs, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Select Board as agents to expend from said fund. [Majority Vote Required]. Note: This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 8, the operating budget article. This article is projected to add 0.7 cents/1,000 to the 2023 tax rate or \$2 to the tax bill on a \$325,000 property.

This article is not recommended for approval by the Advisory Budget Committee 4-1.

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 5-0.

***Explanation:** This savings account is being proposed by the newly created [Energy Committee](#) for the purposes of energy efficiency projects and outreach (scan the QR code to the right to view the committee's webpage). In 2023, the [Energy Committee](#) plans to utilize the funds to perform energy audits at municipal buildings in order to identify opportunities for cost savings.*



Article 21 Library Technology Capital Reserve

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to be added to the Library Technology Capital Reserve Fund previously established. [Majority Vote Required]. Note: This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 8, the operating budget article. This article is projected to add 0.2 cents/1,000 to the 2023 tax rate or \$1 to the tax bill on a \$325,000 property.

This article is not recommended for approval by the Advisory Budget Committee 4-1.

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 5-0.

***Explanation:** This savings account is primarily used to save for library technology improvements. Anticipated upcoming purchases include IT infrastructure, staff workstations, and customer workstations.*



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Article 22 Police Collective Bargaining Agreement

To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Select Board and the Barrington Police Union NEPBA Local #240 which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2023	\$69,542
2024	\$48,462
2025	\$31,906

and further to raise and appropriate \$69,542 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. [Majority Vote Required]. Note: This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article 8, the operating budget article. This article is projected to add 5 cents/1,000 to the 2023 tax rate or \$16 to the tax bill on a \$325,000 property.

This article is recommended for approval by the Advisory Budget Committee 5-0.

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 5-0.

***Explanation:** The results of a 2022 wage study showed that Barrington employees were underpaid compared to the municipal labor market. As a result, the Select Board adopted the recommendations and built the wage increases into the 2023 budget. The Select Board and Police Union agreed to open negotiations a year early to incorporate the results of the wage study.*

The cost items of the proposed changes include wages, holiday pay, and additional compensation for Field Training Officers. The Select Board approved the tentative agreement at their December 12, 2022 meeting and it was subsequently approved by the Police Union. The full contract, a letter from the Police Union and additional details regarding the negotiation process are available by scanning the QR code to the right and at www.barrington.nh.gov/2022PoliceNegotiations.



Article 23 Collective Bargaining Agreement Renegotiation and Vote

To see if the Town will authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Warrant Article 22, Collective Bargaining Agreement cost items only, if Warrant Article 22 for Collective Bargaining Agreement cost items is defeated. [Majority Vote Required].

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 5-0.

***Explanation:** The purpose of this article is to allow additional negotiations and a special meeting if the proposed collective bargaining agreement is not ratified by voters.*

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Additional Details: www.barrington.nh.gov/2023warrant

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Article 24 Service-Connected Total Disability Credit

To see if the Town will vote to increase the optional tax credit for a Service-Connected Total Disability on residential property from \$3,550 to \$4,000 pursuant to the provisions of RSA 72:35. [Majority Vote Required]. This article is projected to add 1.4 cents/1,000 to the 2023 tax rate or \$5 to the tax bill on a \$325,000 property.

This article is recommended for approval by the Advisory Budget Committee 5-0.

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 5-0.

***Explanation:** In 2019, the Select Board reviewed exemptions and credits available to Barrington residents and identified that Barrington was not offering the maximum credit available to veterans. The Select Board established a plan to incrementally increase the credits to minimize impacts to other taxpayers. Between 2019 and 2022, the credit was increased from \$2,000 to \$3,550. There are currently 43 active service-connected total disability credits in Barrington. The county average credit value is \$2,073 and the State average is \$1,781. The minimum is \$700, and maximum is \$4,000.*

Article 25 All Veterans' Tax Credit

To see if the Town will vote to readopt and increase the Optional and All Veterans' Tax Credit from \$650 to \$750 pursuant to the provisions of RSA 72:28 and RSA 72:28-b. [Majority Vote Required]. This article is projected to add 3 cents/1,000 to the 2023 tax rate or \$11 to the tax bill on a \$325,000 property.

This article is recommended for approval by the Advisory Budget Committee 4-0 (one abstention).

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 5-0.

***Explanation:** In 2020, the Select Board was presented with a petitioned warrant article to increase the All-Veteran's Credit from \$450 to the new maximum of \$750 over three years. The Select Board worked with the petitioner to clean up the warrant article language (which can only change one year at a time). As a result, the Select Board supported an article to increase the All-Veteran's Credit to \$550. This article passed at the 2021 Town Meeting. At Town Meeting in 2022, the Select Board sponsored a successful warrant article to bring the credit to \$650. Readoption is also required in 2023 due to statutory changes in the credits. There are currently 498 active veteran credits in Barrington. The county average is \$496, and the State average is \$402. The minimum is \$50, and the maximum is \$750.*



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Article 26 Fiber to the Home Non-Binding Agreement

To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to enter a non-binding agreement with Consolidated Communications dba (doing business as) Fidium Fiber to explore funding opportunities to bring fiber to the home for residents of Barrington. Consolidated Communications was competitively recommended by the Barrington Technology Committee through the advertisement of a request for proposals in 2022. [Majority Vote Required].

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 5-0.

Explanation: The Barrington Technology Committee has taken a proactive approach to promote bringing fiber internet to homes in Barrington. The committee advertised a [Request for Proposals](#) in 2022 and recommended a partnership with Fidium Fiber (Consolidated Communications) to pursue grants and low-interest loans which would help accomplish this goal. Consolidated Communications scored higher in the competitive process due to their current fiber service in Barrington and their capacity for expansion. Multiple providers have fiber services along Routes 125, 9, and 4, but (except for Fidium Fiber) those services do not extend to residential areas. A non-binding agreement would allow the Town to collectively advocate and pursue future funding opportunities. Additional details are available by scanning the QR code to the right and at www.barrington.nh.gov/fiber.



Article 27 Noise Ordinance

To see if the Town will repeal the existing noise ordinance and adopt in its place a new noise ordinance pursuant to RSA 31:39, which prohibits certain loud noises likely to endanger the comfort, repose, health, peace, or safety of others between the hours of 10 PM and 6 AM. Several types of noises, including but not limited to, fireworks from July 1 through July 6 each year and lawfully discharging firearms (per RSA 159:26), are exempted from the ordinance, and the Police Chief shall have the authority to issue a temporary special permit for other types of noises. Violations of the ordinance will result in penalties ranging from \$50 to \$250, depending on the number of convictions in any six-month period. [Majority Vote Required].

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 4-0.

Explanation: Barrington voters adopted a noise ordinance in 2001 pursuant to RSA 31:39. It was amended by the Select Board in 2016 and 2017, but those amendments were never adopted by Town Meeting. In 2022, the Select Board, Town Administrator, and Police Chief worked on a proposal to ratify the 2016 and 2017 amendments into an enforceable noise ordinance. Additional details including a complete copy of the proposed noise ordinance are available by scanning the QR code to the right and at www.barrington.nh.gov/2023noiseupdate.





TOWN OF BARRINGTON

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Office of the Select Board

2023 Town Meeting Voter Guide

Article 28 By Petition: Code of Ethics

To see if the Town will vote to encourage the Select Board to evaluate the need for a code of ethics in addition to the mandatory oath of office, for all Town officers who are not subject to the Town personnel policy.

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 3-1.

(BY PETITION, AS AMENDED AT DELIBERATIVE SESSION)

Explanation: [RSA 39:3](#) allows 25 or more registered voters to insert a petitioned article into the Town warrant. The [original petition](#) with 37 certified signatures was amended by voters at the February 4, 2023 Deliberative Session.

Article 29 By Petition: Duty to Inform

To see if the Town will vote to encourage the employees and officers who, while acting in their official capacity, receive first-hand actionable information about possible gun violence against children to report to law enforcement on such information.

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 3-1.

(BY PETITION, AS AMENDED AT DELIBERATIVE SESSION)

Explanation: [RSA 39:3](#) allows 25 or more registered voters to insert a petitioned article into the Town warrant. The [original petition](#) with 37 certified signatures was amended by voters at the February 4, 2023 Deliberative Session.

Article 30 By Petition: Court Proceedings Webpage

To see if the Town will vote to encourage the Select Board to make court proceedings (excluding personnel issues) involving the Town available to residents on the Town's website.

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 3-1.

(BY PETITION, AS AMENDED AT DELIBERATIVE SESSION)

Explanation: [RSA 39:3](#) allows 25 or more registered voters to insert a petitioned article into the Town warrant. View the [original petition](#) with 38 certified signatures was amended by voters at the February 4, 2023 Deliberative Session.



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Article 31 By Petition: Temporary Signs

To see if the Town will vote to recommend that the Planning Board review the provisions of the Zoning Ordinance regarding temporary signs and to propose any recommended changes at the 2024 Town Meeting.

This article is recommended for approval by the Select Board 3-1.

(BY PETITION, AS AMENDED AT DELIBERATIVE SESSION)

Explanation: [RSA 39:3](#) allows 25 or more registered voters to insert a petitioned article into the Town warrant. The [original petition](#) with 36 certified signatures was amended by voters at the February 4, 2023 Deliberative Session.



Questions?



Barrington Kids VOTE!



1



2

*Similar vehicles



3

Barrington Kids Will Decide:

2024 Dog Tag Color (1)

New Recreation Van Name (2)

New Highway Dump Truck Name (3)

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 8a-7p

Barrington Middle School

Adults: Bring your kids! Kids: Bring your adults!