



# **TOWN OF AUBURN AND AUBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**GUIDE TO THE SECOND SESSION OF THE  
2024 TOWN MEETING &  
2024 AUBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

AUBURN VILLAGE SCHOOL

March 12, 2024

Polls open at 7:00 A.M. and close at 7:00 P.M.





Dear Fellow Residents of Auburn:

We are pleased to provide you with this Guide to the Second Session of 2024 Town and School District Meetings. The Second Session, a ballot voting day, will be held **Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>** from **7am-7pm** at the **Auburn Village School**.

Produced in cooperation with the Auburn School Board, this guide is intended to explain, in common language, each article that voters will be asked to vote upon. It also provides some background information on ballot articles. *Explanations and background information appear in italics.*

The First Session, or “Deliberative Session” of the Town and School meetings were held on February 3rd. Voters in attendance considered each article, and agreed to place all warrant articles on the ballot without any changes.

This first session was preceded by months of work by the Board of Selectmen, School Board, and Budget Committee. Voters will elect officers and make decisions about important town and school matters on March 12. We encourage you to consider the issues, make informed decisions, and participate that day.

Additional information on some articles is available on the town website, along with voter registration details. Thank you for the opportunity to represent you, and for your consideration of these important matters. We look forward to seeing you on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

**Auburn Board of Selectmen**

Keith N. Leclair, Chair

Michael J. Rolfe

Thomas F. Carroll

## **Article 1: Election of Officers**

### **SELECTMAN**

KEITH LECLAIR

J.HERBERT TARDIFF

### **MODERATOR**

KATHLEEN A. SYLVIA

EMILY SANDBLADE

### **SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST**

JOANNE T. LINXWEILER

### **LIBRARY TRUSTEE**

NANCY J. MAYLAND

### **CEMETERY TRUSTEE**

DAVID ZALESKI

### **TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUNDS**

DEBRA ASQUITH

### **POLICE COMMISSION**

PATRICK BERGERON

### **PLANNING BOARD** – VOTE FOR TWO

JILL DROSS

*All positions on the ballot allow write-ins.*

*All candidates on the ballot were invited to submit information published in the Auburn Town Crier's March edition.*

## ARTICLES 2-19

### AMENDMENTS TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE

*Articles 2-19 would amend the Auburn Zoning Ordinance. The changes are summarized on the ballot, and the full text of proposed changes is available on the town's web site or in print at the Town Hall.*

*Articles 2-6 are proposed by the Planning Board, and a brief explanation of those articles follows below. Articles 7-19 are placed on the ballot by voter petition. Following a public hearing in January, the Planning Board made recommendations on each proposed change.*

#### **Article 2:**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Auburn Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Article 2.02 Definition # 37 Home Business, to address use of accessory structure and outdoor storage provisions. (Majority Vote Required). **(This Amendment is Recommended by the Planning Board)**

*This article would update the definition of a Home Business, to expand the ability to utilize accessory structures on residential property for home business activities. It would require all parking to be on-site, with none on the street, and require visual screening of materials stored on the property.*

### **Article 3:**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Auburn Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Article 2.02 Definition # 38 Home Office to change definition to Home Occupation Office, to address use of accessory structure and outdoor storage provisions. (Majority Vote Required). **(This Amendment is Recommended by the Planning Board)**

*This article would change the definition title from, "Home Office" to, "Home Occupation Office." It would also change the language to expand the ability to utilize accessory structures on residential property for a Home Occupation Office. Additionally, a new statement would require all parking be on the property, not the street.*

### **Article 4:**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Auburn Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Article 2.02 Definition # 39 Home Shop to address use of accessory structure and outdoor storage provisions. (Majority Vote Required). **(This Amendment is Recommended by the Planning Board)**

*This article would expand the ability to utilize accessory structures on residential property for a Home Shop. It would require all parking to be on-site, with none on the street, and require visual screening of materials stored on the property.*

**Article 5:**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Auburn Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Article 6 Flood Plain Management Ordinance in its entirety to reflect language in compliance with National Flood Insurance Program. (Majority Vote Required).

**(This Amendment is Recommended by the Planning Board)**

*This article would make minor changes to the flood plain regulations, related to flood waters entering water/sewer systems, and discharges from those systems into flood waters.*

**Article 6:**

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Auburn Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Amend Article 12 Growth Management Section 12.04 Exceptions to change existing language to reflect modern terminology. (Majority Vote Required).

**(This Amendment is Recommended by the Planning Board)**

*This article would make semantic changes but make no substantive changes to what is permitted or required in land use regulations. Examples include:*

- *“Elderly” changed to, “Age Restricted 55 and Older Housing”;*
- *“Handicapped” to, “Accessibility Housing”;* and
- *“Economically Disadvantaged” to, “Workforce Housing”*

**Article 7: By Petition.** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 6 of the Auburn Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To remove in its entirety Article 8 - 55 and Older Housing Regulations. (Majority Vote Required).

**(This Amendment is NOT Recommended by the Planning Board)**

**Article 8: By Petition.** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 7 of the Auburn Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To remove in its entirety Article 8 - 55 and Older Housing Regulations Section 8.01 Authority Statement? (Majority Vote Required).

**(This Amendment is NOT Recommended by the Planning Board)**

**Article 9: By Petition.** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 8 of the Auburn Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To amend Article 8 - 55 and Older Housing Regulations Section 8.07 (2) - to change frontage requirement from Class V to Class I road? (Majority Vote Required).

**(This Amendment is NOT Recommended by the Planning Board)**

**Article 10: By Petition.** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 9 of the Auburn Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To amend Article 8 - 55 and Older Housing Regulations Section 8.07 (5) – to change the minimum buffer zone from 100 feet to 200 feet? (Majority Vote Required).

**(This Amendment is NOT Recommended by the Planning Board)**



**Article 11: By Petition.** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 10 of the Auburn Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To amend Article 8 - 55 and Older Housing Regulations Section 8.07 (6) – to increase wetland buffer zones? (Majority Vote Required).

**(This Amendment is NOT Recommended by the Planning Board)**

**Article 12: By Petition.** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 11 of the Auburn Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To amend Article 8 - 55 and Older Housing Regulations to change Section 8.07 (7) – to require additional off-street parking for each dwelling unit over 20 units? (Majority Vote Required).

**(This Amendment is NOT Recommended by the Planning Board)**

**Article 13: By Petition.** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 12 of the Auburn Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To amend Article 8 - 55 and Older Housing Regulations Section 8.07 (11) – to change Maximum Dead-end Road length from, “Determined by Planning Board” to, “1,000 feet”? (Majority Vote Required).

**(This Amendment is NOT Recommended by the Planning Board)**

**Article 14: By Petition.** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 13 of the Auburn Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To amend Article 8 - 55 and Older Housing Regulations to add Section 8.07 13(a) – 30,000 gallon cisterns required with a minimum of 1 cistern per 25 dwelling units? (Majority Vote Required).

**(This Amendment is NOT Recommended by the Planning Board)**

**Article 15: By Petition.** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 14 of the Auburn Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To amend Article 8 - 55 and Older Housing Regulations to add Section 8.07 (19) – to add requirements and liabilities for new wells? (Majority Vote Required).

**(This Amendment is NOT Recommended by the Planning Board)**

**Article 16: By Petition.** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 15 of the Auburn Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To amend Article 8 - 55 and Older Housing Regulations to add Section 8.07 (20) – to require the Town to perform additional, separate traffic impact studies? (Majority Vote Required).

**(This Amendment is NOT Recommended by the Planning Board)**

**Article 17: By Petition.** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 16 of the Auburn Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To amend Article 8 - 55 and Older Housing Regulations Section 8.11 - to change from 10% of the total number of non-55 and older housing units to 5% of 55 and older housing units? (Majority Vote Required).

**(This Amendment is NOT Recommended by the Planning Board)**

**Article 18: By Petition.** Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 17 of the Auburn Zoning Ordinance as follows:

To require primary ingress and egress via a state numbered highway for residential developments over 20 dwelling units and commercial or industrial developments over 10 acres? (Majority Vote Required).

**(This Amendment is NOT Recommended by the Planning Board)**

## **Article 19:**

Are you in favor of the Town will raising and appropriating 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 \$ 6,572,670. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$6,388,281, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Auburn 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). **(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Recommended by the Budget Committee)**

*The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee have worked over the past several months to deliver a budget proposal that maintains quality town services without drastic increases in the tax burden.*

*The amount proposed represents a 2.8% increase over last year's article.*

*Factors driving the operating budget this year include:*

*Health Insurance Premiums – Large changes were made in 2023 to insurance benefits for employees that produced savings for the Town, but not enough to offset a 14.6% increase in premiums.*

*Elections – there are four different local/state/federal election days in 2024.*

*Positions Added Last Year – In mid-2023, two new firefighters were added to enable round-the-clock staffing. Part-time positions in the Library and Parks & Rec were increased to full-time to provide additional program opportunities for residents. These salaries and benefits are now budgeted for a full year.*

*Inflation – while price increases are slowing, some vendors under longer-term contracts with the Town increased prices in 2023. Software licensing and professional services increased rates in several areas. The budget includes a cost-of-living increase for employees that is down to 3.1% this year.*

*Fuel and Utilities – these items were generally under-spent in 2023, as we had budgeted during peak inflation the prior year. Many of these line items have been reduced for 2024.*

*State Revenue Sharing – over the past few years, increases in funds coming from the legislature from the Rooms and Meals tax and local highway/bridge grants have helped offset increased costs.*

*A “Yes” vote will authorize the spending of the budget amount (\$6,572,670).*

*A “No” vote will authorize the spending of the (lesser) Default Budget amount. The calculation of the default amount is set by law, essentially the prior year's budget adjusted for certain prior commitments and one-time expenses.*

## **Article 20:**

Are you in favor of establishing a Library Expansion and Community Center Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for design, engineering, site work, and construction costs associated with an expanded library and new community center, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as agents, in consultation with the Library Board of Trustees, to expend from said fund. (Majority Vote Required). **(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Recommended by the Budget Committee)**

*The Trustees of the Griffin Free Library have been preparing for an expansion of the building over the past three years, with a Building Needs Assessment, fundraising consultations, and early design work with an architect. Discussions have also considered a ‘community center’ or ‘recreation’ component, in addition to library expansion.*

*Some plans have been developed, with the hope of bringing a request to voters for a large bond to begin construction. However, the consensus among Trustees, Selectmen, and Budget Committee members is that more work is necessary before bringing a project to voters. Concerns include the tax impact, site challenges, and the desire to include the broadest possible array of community users in a “community center.”*

*The Library Trustees have requested this article, which would create a new reserve fund for future costs associated with a project. There are three goals:*

- 1. Begin saving for a much larger cost, and to have funds available for early costs like design and engineering.*
- 2. Show grant-makers and private donors that there is support for a project.*
- 3. Gauge Auburn residents’ willingness to fund a project through taxes.*

*Planning discussions will continue, and voters will see this subject again before any funds are borrowed or any additional taxes are levied. If a project does not come to fruition, Town Meeting can remove money from the proposed fund for some other purpose.*

*2024 Estimated Tax Rate Impact: \$0.07*

## **UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE**

*Articles 21 and 23-28 propose spending money from the “Unreserved Fund Balance.” These funds can be thought of as the Town’s operating cash and savings account. This money is used to pay town and school expenses year-round, so we do not have to borrow money between tax billings. Funds accumulate each year the town spends less than its budget, or receives income that was not expected. In 2023, the Unreserved Fund Balance grew by roughly \$140,000.*

*The balance at year-end is determined with the annual audit. The State of NH recommends a size range for these funds, from 8-17% of total appropriations. The current balance is estimated at \$3.8 million, or at the high end of the recommended range.*

*If all articles are approved, the fund will be reduced by \$460,000, leaving the fund well above \$3 Million and still safely in the recommended range.*

## **Article 21:**

Are you in favor of authorizing the selectmen to purchase a portion of the property at 32 Hooksett Road, shown on town tax maps as Map 26 Lot 10-1, and to raise and appropriate \$225,000 for that purpose. The sum of \$225,000 to come from the unreserved fund balance (surplus) as of December 31, 2023 with no additional amount to come from taxation in 2024. (Majority Vote Required). **(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Recommended by the Budget Committee)**

*This article is proposed by the Board of Selectmen. The subject property is a two-acre parcel that currently houses a day care center. The Board of Selectmen has reached an agreement with the owner to purchase about one acre, a vacant portion in the rear of the property. This land has frontage on Eaton Hill Road, and sits directly between the school and the library.*

*The Selectmen view this purchase as a strategic opportunity that will benefit the community for decades. This is some of the only vacant land in the center of the village. No firm plans have been made for its use or development, but acquiring the land could provide:*

- 1. Safe pedestrian passage between the school and the library;*
- 2. Flexibility in the design and build-out of an expanded library and community center;*  
*and*
- 3. Parking for town and school facilities.*

*The Town's 2018 Master Plan describes Auburn Village as, "the focal point of the community's governmental, cultural and social activities. As such, it should continue to serve as a thriving and sustainable part of the community." The plan laments the lack of development in the village due to among other things, "the lack of municipal infrastructure [and] lack of developable land."*

*The Board hopes to take advantage of this opportunity to acquire the land now, while it is still undeveloped and without impacting property taxes.*

*A "Yes" vote would give the Board of Selectmen authority and funds to complete the land purchase.*

*A "No" vote will prevent the land purchase this year.*

*2024 Estimated Tax Rate Impact: \$0.00*

**Article 22:**

Are you in favor of approving the cost items related to the third year of a five-year collective bargaining agreement which resulted from negotiations between the Auburn Board of Selectmen, the Auburn Police Commission and the Auburn Police Union, Local 216 and which represents an estimated increase of \$24,454 over FY 2023 salaries, fringe benefits and other cost items at the current staffing level for the ensuing year; and further to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-four thousand four hundred and fifty-four dollars (\$24,454), to fund those cost items for FY 2024. Cost items for FY 2025 and FY 2026 will be presented to the voters for their approval in March 2025 and March 2026 in accordance with the terms of the collective bargaining agreement. (Majority Vote Required.) **(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Recommended by the Budget Committee)**

*This article is proposed by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Police Commissioners.*

*Most officers of the Auburn Police Department are members of a collective bargaining unit known as the Auburn Police Union. In November, 2021, the town and union agreed to a contract that now extends through March of 2027.*

*As part of that agreement, cost items that increase each year are brought forward for Town Meeting approval. In general terms, the funds requested this year will cover step increases (3%) and a cost of living adjustment (1.5%) for officer positions covered by the Auburn Police Union. Funding also covers related Social Security, Medicare and/or NH Retirement System costs.*

*A “Yes” vote would approve the cost items for the next year of the collective bargaining agreement.*

*A “No” vote would not provide funding for the those costs, and would result in the Town and Union returning to negotiations on a new agreement in 2024.*

*2024 Estimated Tax Rate Impact: \$0.02*

**Article 23:**

Are you in favor of raising and appropriating Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Revaluation Fund previously established. The sum of \$10,000 to come from the unreserved fund balance (surplus) as of December 31, 2023 with no additional amount to come from taxation in 2024. (Majority Vote Required.) **(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Recommended by the Budget Committee)**

*Every five years, the Town is required by state law to re-assess the value of all properties. The purpose of the revaluation is to update the market value of each property for taxation. Auburn contracts with a private firm to provide assessing services, including the revaluation.*

*This was completed in 2023, and will happen again in 2028. The cost of the revaluation in will be over \$100,000. The purpose of the Revaluation Fund, created in 1997, is to save funds throughout the five-year revaluation cycle, rather than pay the entire amount every five years.*

*The Fund currently holds about \$52,000. By continuing to save for the 2028 revaluation, the Town will avoid a large one-time expense at that time. The proposal for this year is to take funds from the unreserved fund balance (surplus) so there will be no tax impact in 2024.*

*A “Yes” vote will add \$10,000 to the Revaluation Fund from the surplus.*

*A “No” vote will add nothing to the fund.*

*2024 Estimated Tax Rate Impact:\$0.00*



**Article 24:**

Are you in favor of raising and appropriating the sum of Twenty-five Thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed into the Accrued Benefits Liability Expendable Trust Fund previously established. The sum of \$25,000 to come from the unreserved fund balance (surplus) as of December 31, 2023 with no additional amount to come from taxation in 2024. (Majority vote required.) **(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Recommended by the Budget Committee)**

*This article is proposed by the Board of Selectmen. In 2016, voters established an Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of having funds available to cover the expenses of accrued employment benefits such as vacation and sick leave, paid out when an employee leaves the Town's employ. These are legal liabilities the Town has as an employer.*

*The current balance is approximately \$35,000. The Board of Selectmen are anticipating the retirement of senior employees over the next few years.  
If approved, funds will come from the unreserved fund balance and have no tax impact in 2024.*

*A "Yes" vote will add \$25,000 to the Benefits Liability Fund from the surplus.*

*A "No" vote will add nothing to the fund.*

*2024 Estimated Tax Rate Impact: \$0.00*

**Article 25:**

Are you in favor of raising and appropriating the sum of Fifty Thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be placed into the Fleet Maintenance and Replacement Expendable Trust Fund previously established. The sum of \$50,000 to come from the unreserved fund balance (surplus) as of December 31, 2023 with no additional amount to come from taxation in 2024. (Majority vote required.) **(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Recommended by the Budget Committee)**

*This article is proposed by the Board of Selectmen. In 2020, voters established an Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of maintaining or replacing vehicles and equipment owned and operating by various Town departments as needs arise. The intention was to manage unanticipated expenses town-wide instead of carrying larger amounts in various department budgets to cover “what ifs.”*

*The next major purchase from the fund is expected to be a replacement tanker truck for the fire department. Originally expected in the 2023-24 timeframe, the current truck continues to be working for the department, in service and passing inspections. The cost to replace this vehicle is expected to be much higher than originally anticipated by the Town’s Capital Improvement Planning. Continuing to set aside surplus funds will allow the Town to reduce the tax burden of a truck purchase when it becomes necessary.*

*The Fleet Maintenance and Replacement Expendable Trust Fund will continue to be used for unanticipated repairs in 2024, in addition to the planned major purchase on the horizon.*

*The current balance of the fund is roughly \$237,000. The proposed amount of \$50,000 would come from the unreserved fund balance (surplus), with no new taxes raised.*

*A “Yes” vote will add \$25,000 to the Fleet Maintenance and Replacement Fund from the surplus.*

*A “No” vote will add nothing to the fund.*

*2024 Estimated Tax Rate Impact: \$0.00*

**Article 26:**

Are you in favor of raising and appropriating the sum of Twenty-five Thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed into the Cemetery Maintenance Fund previously established. The sum of \$25,000 to come from the unreserved fund balance (surplus) as of December 31, 2023 with no additional amount to come from taxation in 2024. (Majority vote required.) **(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Recommended by the Budget Committee)**

*This article is proposed by the Board of Selectmen. Proceeds from the sale of cemetery plots are placed in the Cemetery Maintenance Fund, in addition to occasional appropriations by Town Meeting. The fund currently holds about \$38,000.*

*The Cemetery Trustees have identified a number of items in need of repair in the near term, including:*

- *Replacing fencing between the school and Village Cemetery;*
- *Filling and re-grading gravel lanes within both cemeteries; and*
- *Replacing the sign at Village Cemetery.*

*A “Yes” vote will add \$25,000 to the Cemetery Maintenance Fund from surplus.*

*A “No” vote will add nothing to the fund.*

*2024 Estimated Tax Rate Impact:\$0.00*

**Article 27:**

Are you in favor of raising and appropriating the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand dollars (\$75,000) to be placed into the Town Buildings Restoration & New Construction Expendable Trust Fund previously established. The sum of \$75,000 to come from the unreserved fund balance (surplus) as of December 31, 2023 with no additional amount to come from taxation in 2024. (Majority vote required.) **(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Recommended by the Budget Committee)**

*This article is proposed by the Board of Selectmen. Created in 2006, this fund is used for larger maintenance, restoration, rehab, and construction of town buildings. Recent uses include replacement of the lift (elevator) in town hall and repair of the backup generator at the safety complex.*

*In the near future, the Selectmen expect to need to replace siding at town hall, and to make repairs and upgrades to the highway garage. The current balance is \$38,000.*

*A “Yes” vote will add \$75,000 to the Building Rehabilitation and New Construction Fund from surplus.*

*A “No” vote will add nothing to the fund.*

*2024 Estimated Tax Rate Impact: \$0.00*

**Article 28:**

Are you in favor of raising and appropriating the sum of Fifty Thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be placed into the Town Property Rehabilitation Expendable Trust Fund previously established. The sum of \$50,000 to come from the unreserved fund balance (surplus) as of December 31, 2023 with no additional amount to come from taxation in 2024. (Majority vote required.)  
**(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen. Recommended by the Budget Committee)**

*This article is proposed by the Board of Selectmen. Since 2019 this fund has been used for town lands and properties. Recent expenses include LED street light upgrades, and new fencing for softball at Wayne Eddows Fields. The current balance of the fund is roughly \$28,000. Considerations for upcoming investments include the parking lot lights at town hall, and safety upgrades to walking paths at Wayne Eddows.*

*A “Yes” vote will add \$50,000 to the Property Rehabilitation Fund from surplus.*

*A “No” vote will add nothing to the fund.*

*2024 Estimated Tax Rate Impact:\$0.00*

**Article 29:**

Are you in favor of modifying the provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Auburn, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, \$200,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, \$230,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$280,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person’s spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$35,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$50,000 and own net assets not in excess of \$50,000 excluding the value of the person’s residence. (Majority vote required) **(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.)**

*This article is proposed by the Board of Selectmen. The elderly property tax exemption provides tax relief to applicants over age 65 with low incomes and limited assets. These residents typically have fixed, lower incomes and need financial help to stay in their homes. Under state law, towns set the income and asset limits used to determine eligibility. The amount of taxes exempted from these residents’ bills is spread across the remaining tax base in town. In 2023, ten residents were granted the elderly exemption. In recent years, rising asset values and increases in social security benefits to match inflation have limited the number of residents eligible.*

*Compared to other towns, Auburn’s elderly exemption is relatively hard to get, with low income and asset limits. For those that do qualify, Auburn’s exemption is larger than most other towns.*

*At the request of some residents, the Board of Selectmen is proposing a change in the requirements that will make more people eligible by increasing the income and asset limits. At the same time, they propose slightly reducing the benefit to each person eligible, so that the tax burden shifted to the other taxpayers is not too big.*

	Income Limit		Asset Limit		Amount Exempted		
					Age		
	Single	Married	Single	Married	65-74	75-79	80+
Current	\$ 25,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 255,000	\$ 315,000
Proposed	\$ 35,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 230,000	\$ 280,000

*Example: In 2023, an eligible resident aged 75 received a tax reduction of \$3,215. ( $\$255,000 / 1,000 \times \$12.61$  tax rate) = \$3,215.*

# TOWN OF AUBURN

## 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

Department	Budgeted 2023	Expended 2023**	Proposed 2024
Executive Department Total	\$317,027	\$264,482	\$287,240
Election, Regis & Vital Stats Total	\$110,668	\$92,936	\$157,533
Financial Administration Total	\$176,541	\$178,904	\$128,492
Legal Expenditures Total	\$28,000	\$15,235	\$23,000
Personnel Administration Total	\$580,500	\$523,616	\$681,107
Planning & Zoning Total	\$31,651	\$9,760	\$31,651
Government Buildings & Mainten Total	\$171,377	\$125,907	\$151,216
Cemeteries Total	\$36,507	\$32,176	\$38,577
Insurance Total	\$157,598	\$154,698	\$172,032
Advertising & Regional Assoc Total	\$10,171	\$10,339	\$10,605
General Government Total	\$130,300	\$119,622	\$140,325
Police Department Total	\$1,623,757	\$1,474,291	\$1,598,577
Ambulance Total	\$96,314	\$94,912	\$97,759
Fire Department Total	\$707,759	\$652,976	\$743,930
Building Inspection Total	\$82,238	\$72,889	\$83,612
Emergency Management Total	\$504	\$66	\$504
Other Public Safety Total	\$1,000	\$493	\$5,000
Highways & Streets Total	\$1,146,199	\$1,178,482	\$1,208,836
Street Lighting Total	\$8,100	\$6,304	\$7,500
Solid Waste Disposal Total	\$21,000	\$9,581	\$21,100
Health Administration Total	\$2,905	\$2,952	\$2,989
Animal & Pest Control Total	\$25,110	\$24,318	\$26,587
Health Agencies & Hospitals Total	\$5,875	\$5,875	\$6,000
Direct Assistance Total	\$10,000	\$12,725	\$15,001
Intergovernmental Welfare Pmts Total	\$4,471	\$4,471	\$4,471
Parks & Rec Total	\$164,796	\$145,037	\$169,677
Library Total	\$237,480	\$207,891	\$240,509
Patriotic Purposes Total	\$6,800	\$7,109	\$7,200
Conservation Administration Total	\$4,588	\$806	\$4,639
Principle on LT Bonds & Notes Total	\$1	\$0	\$0
Interest on LT Bonds & Notes Total	\$1	\$0	\$0
Interest on Tax Anticipation Total	\$1	\$0	\$1
Land & Improvements Total	\$20,000	\$29,405	\$7,000
Machinery, Vehicles & Equipment Total	\$48,214	\$48,213	\$0
Buildings Total	\$0	\$0	\$0
Improvements Other Than Bldgs Total	\$460,000	\$478,724	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$6,427,453</b>	<b>\$5,985,194</b>	<b>\$6,572,670</b>
		<b>2024 DEFAULT BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$6,388,281</b>

\*\*Expended 2023 column is as of January 4, 2024 and does not reflect final December postings, year-end adjustments or accrued expenses.





# **AUBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTING**

**MARCH 12, 2024**

### **Article 1:**

#### **Election of Officers**

#### **SCHOOL BOARD**

3-year term – VOTE FOR TWO:

DEREK BERGER  
ADRIAN NEWTON

**Article 2:**

Shall the Auburn School District 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 purposes set forth therein, totaling \$18,281,598? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$18,117,489, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Auburn School District or by law; or the 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.

*The majority of the approximate \$1,232,955 increase in the proposed operating budget is due to:*

- *A 5.0% in base salaries in year 2 of the collective bargaining agreement between the Auburn School Board and the Auburn Education Association,*
- *A 3.5% increase in health insurance rates,*
- *A 5.84% increase in tuition rates paid to Pinkerton Academy, and*
- *A 3.0% increase in daily rates paid to First Student for Student Transportation.*

*A “Yes” vote would approve the proposed 2024-2025 operating budget totaling \$18,281,598 as recommended by the Auburn Budget Committee by a unanimous vote of 8-0-0.*

***2024 Estimated Tax Rate Impact: Local Education - \$9.01***

*A “No” vote would not approve the proposed operating budget as recommended by the Budget Committee and would result in the default budget totaling \$18,117,489, calculated by the School Board, being adopted.*

***2024 Estimated Tax Rate Impact: Local Education - \$8.91***

*All positions on the ballot allow write-ins.*

*All candidates on the ballot were invited to submit information published in the Auburn Town Crier’s March edition.*



**TOWN OF AUBURN  
AND  
AUBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ELECTION AND  
BALLOT VOTING**

**AUBURN VILLAGE SCHOOL**

**March 12, 2024**

**Polls open 7:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.**



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