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## NOVEMBER ELECTION NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is intended to assist North Berwick voters with understanding the issues that will be voted upon at the November 7, 2023 election. The Select Board is encouraging North Berwick voters to use this newsletter as a guide to the election and to vote on November 7, 2023. **Please feel free to bring the newsletter to the polls to assist you in your voting decisions since there are no explanations on the ballot with the questions.**

**WHERE TO VOTE?** North Berwick Elementary School located on Varney Road between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.

**WHO CAN VOTE?** You must be a United States citizen, be at least 18 years old, live in Maine and be a registered to vote in the Town of North Berwick.

**WHERE DO I REGISTER?** You may register to vote at the Town Office, or at the polls during election day.

**CAN I HAVE HELP VOTING?** Yes. If you need help reading or marking the ballot, you may ask a relative or friend for assistance. The helper does not have to be a voter or old enough to vote. An election official can also help you read or mark a ballot. However, your employer or union official cannot help you vote.

**HOW DO I MARK A BALLOT?** The Town uses an optical scanning machine to count the completed ballots. Complete the oval next to your choice. If you make a mistake, you may request a new ballot. **DO NOT ERASE.**

**DO I NEED TO GO TO THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY TO VOTE?** No. Any registered voter may cast an absentee ballot instead of voting in person at the polling place. Absentee Ballots are available in the Town Clerk's office during regular office hours. Any registered voter may request a ballot in person, by phone or <https://apps.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl>

For the November 7, 2023 General Election, the deadline to request an absentee ballot, including a ballot voted in the presence of the clerk, is Thursday, Thursday, November 2, 2023 until 5 pm, unless the voter completes a special circumstances application, stating one of four allowable reasons for requesting an absentee ballot after this deadline. The four reasons are:

- An unexpected absence from the municipality during the entire time the polls are open on election day;
- A physical disability,
- An inability to travel to the polls because the voter is a resident of a coastal island ward or precinct; or
- An incapacity or illness that has resulted in the voter being unable to leave home or a treatment facility.

This special circumstances application must be signed **by the voter**. This application can be obtained from the Town Clerk or from the Secretary of State.

All ballots must be returned by 8 pm on Election Day. If returning your ballot by mail, please plan accordingly. Any ballots received after 8 pm will not be counted.



# Absentee Voting Guide

Voting is one of the fundamental rights we have as citizens of this state and country. Everyone should make an effort to cast a ballot at each election.

Maine law makes it easy to cast an absentee ballot. You don't have to be out-of-town or have any other reason to take advantage of this easy way to vote at a time that is most convenient for you.

If you would like to vote by absentee ballot, please take a few moments to review the information below. Contact your local municipal clerk or the Elections Division if you have additional questions.

Make sure you have a voice in your future - cast a ballot.

## What is absentee voting and how does it work?

Absentee voting allows you to cast a ballot without going to a voting place on Election Day.

## Who may vote absentee?

Any registered voter may cast an absentee ballot instead of voting in person at a voting place on Election Day. You don't need to have a specific reason or be unable to vote at the voting place on Election Day to receive an absentee ballot.

## What are the steps to voting by absentee ballot?

1. Complete an absentee ballot application to get a ballot; then,
2. Fill out and deliver the ballot back to the municipal clerk, or to the Secretary of State, Division of Elections (if you are a [Uniformed Service or Overseas voter](#)).

## Is there a deadline to request an absentee ballot?

For the November 7, 2023 General Election, the deadline to request an absentee ballot by telephone or online Absentee Ballot Request service is 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 2, 2023.

**A voter may vote in the presence of the clerk during the clerk's office hours, until 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 2, 2023.**

## How do I apply for and receive an absentee ballot?

Contact the Chris Dudley, Town Clerk at Town Hall. [Uniformed Service and Overseas voters](#) will request an absentee ballot directly from the Secretary of State, Division of Elections.

You can make a telephone request for your own ballot, which will be mailed to the address you provide to the clerk.

You can request your own ballot electronically using the Secretary of State's online absentee ballot request service. The approved online form can be found at the following web site: [http://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/Absentee Ballot/index.pl](http://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/Absentee%20Ballot/index.pl)

You can make a written request by completing an absentee ballot application. Additionally, you can obtain a ballot for an immediate family member in this same way. A ballot will be mailed to the voter directly or to an immediate family member making the request. Your municipal clerk can tell you who is considered an immediate family member under the law.

**NOTE:** Ballots obtained by the voter or an immediate family member do not require witnesses, unless the voter receives assistance from another person in reading or marking the ballot.

## Can I vote by absentee ballot in person somewhere?

Yes. You may vote absentee at the clerk's office as soon as absentee ballots are available. Absentee ballots are available at least 30 days before the election at the municipal clerk's office. You don't need to complete an application if you vote in person at the clerk's office. The deadline for absentee voting in the presence of the clerk, unless special circumstances exist, is the Thursday before the election.

For the Tuesday, November 8, 2022 General Election, voters can vote in-person absentee through 5 p.m. on Thursday, November 3, 2022.

## Are there any other ways to receive an absentee ballot?

You may make a written request for a "third person" (someone other than the voter or the voter's immediate family member) to obtain and hand-deliver an absentee ballot.

You must designate, in a written request or application, the specific third person who will handle and deliver the ballot. Only this designated third person may handle the absentee ballot.

Ballots cast in this way must be witnessed by either a notary public, a municipal clerk, a clerk of courts, or 2 other witnesses.

### **When must my voted ballot be returned to my municipal clerk?**

To be counted, voted absentee ballots must be received by the municipal clerk by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

If you plan to use the U.S. mail to receive or return your absentee ballot please note the following U.S. Postal Service advisories for mail delivery:

- Request your ballot no later than 15 days prior to Election Day
- Return your ballot no later than 7 days prior to Election Day

The USPS has assured us that all absentee ballots returned to your municipal clerk by mail at least 7 days prior to Election Day are guaranteed to be delivered in time to be cast and counted in the election.

If you plan to return your ballot outside of the suggested USPS delivery window, we encourage you to drop off your ballot in person via the absentee ballot drop box at Town Hall no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day; or plan instead to vote in person at the polls on Election Day.

### **ABSENTEE BALLOT DROP-OFF**

The official, secure Ballot Drop-Box is located in the alcove on the left side of the Town Hall. The drop box is available 24 hours a day for ballot drop off and is lighted for convenient evening drop off. A video camera has been installed for security purposes.



### **What happens if I attempt to vote in person after I have returned my absentee ballot or vice versa?**

When you vote by absentee ballot in the State of Maine, your municipal clerk will take receipt of the ballot and verify that it can be accepted. Once they do so, they will mark your name in the voter system as “AV” for “absentee voter.” Thus, when they print out the incoming voter list just before Election Day, your name will already be “checked off” with the indicator marking that you have already voted via absentee ballot, and you will not be eligible to receive a ballot if you show up to vote in person.

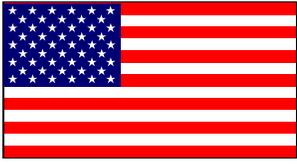
On Election Day, some voters are still dropping off their absentee ballots and the town office is still receiving some by mail. Absentee ballots are processed in batches throughout the day and the list of those newly received absentee ballots is shared with each polling place for each batch, so if the absentee voter tries to vote in person, they will not be able to do so. (And conversely, if they vote in person before their ballot arrives that day, their absentee ballot will be rejected).

### **How do I track the Status of my ballot?**

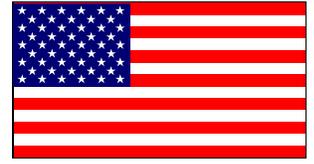
To track the progress of your absentee ballot, click on the black button at the top of the [Online Absentee Ballot Request Service](#) page that says, “Check the status of your absentee ballot.” The ballot tracking system will show you the date that your absentee ballot application is accepted by your municipal clerk, the date your clerk issues (mails out) your ballot to you, and the date your clerk receives your ballot. Please note that the tracker is not updated instantaneously; the information is accessible to you after your municipal clerk enters the updates. You can use this tracking system regardless of how you initially request your absentee ballot (whether you request it directly with your municipal clerk or using the online service). If you have any concerns about your ballot, please contact your municipal clerk directly.

### **How do I request an accessible absentee ballot?**

Since October 2, 2020, the Secretary of State’s office is providing an accessible PDF electronic ballot option for any Maine voter who has a print disability and would like to vote independently from home. Please visit our [Accessible Voting page](#) for more information.



# NOVEMBER 7, 2023 ELECTION GUIDE



*Full Version of Citizen's Guide can be found on the Secretary of State's website:  
<https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/upcoming/index.html>*

## Question 1: Citizen's Initiative

**Do you want to bar some quasi-governmental entities and all consumer-owned electric utilities from taking on more than \$1 billion in debt unless they get statewide voter approval?**

### **Intent and Content** **Prepared by the Office of the Attorney General**

This citizen-initiated bill is intended to require some types of public bodies and electric utilities to get voter approval in a statewide referendum before they can exceed \$1 billion in total outstanding debt.

**Covered Entities.** The voter-approval requirement applies to five types of entities:

*A quasi-independent state entity:* An independent board, commission or agency created by the Maine Legislature to fulfill governmental purposes and that receives revenues that are derived, in whole or part, from federal or state taxes or fees.

*A reporting entity:* A type of quasi-independent state entity required to file financial reports with the Maine Legislature. There are currently 24 reporting entities. Examples include the Finance Authority of Maine, the Maine Community College System, the Maine Human Rights Commission, and the Maine State Housing Authority.

*A municipal electric district:* An entity created by voters or officials of one or more municipalities that may, among other things, generate, transmit, or distribute electricity to individuals and corporations within the district.

*A consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility:* A transmission and distribution utility wholly owned by its consumers, including rural and other electrification cooperatives, municipal and quasi-municipal transmission and distribution utilities, and any transmission and distribution utility wholly owned by a municipality. The Pine Tree Power Company proposed by Question 3 would be classified as a consumer-owned utility if voters approve that proposed measure.

*A rural electrification cooperative:* A corporation organized by 5 or more individuals to, among other things, generate, transmit or distribute electricity to the cooperative's members.

**Voter Approval Process.** Voter approval of debts exceeding \$1 billion for the above entities would occur through a statewide referendum held at a November general election. The State Treasurer would be required to prepare a signed statement estimating the costs involved, including interest costs, which would be printed on the ballot or posted at the voting place.

**Exceptions.** The initiated measure exempts several types of borrowing from the voter-approval requirement:

- (1) Borrowing authorized by certain laws governing the state retirement system;
- (2) Borrowing authorized by certain laws regulating the Finance Authority of Maine;
- (3) Borrowing authorized by certain laws pertaining to post-secondary education;
- (4) Borrowing authorized by certain laws regulating the Maine Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority;

- (5) Borrowing authorized by certain laws pertaining to state highways;
- (6) Borrowing authorized by certain laws regulating the Maine State Housing Authority; and,
- (7) Borrowing authorized by certain laws regulating the Maine Municipal Bond Bank.

A “YES” vote is to enact the initiated legislation.

A “NO” vote opposes the initiated legislation.

## Question 2: Citizen’s Initiative

**Do you want to ban foreign governments and entities that they own, control, or influence from making campaign contributions or financing communications for or against candidates or ballot questions?**

### **Intent and Content Prepared by the Office of the Attorney General**

This citizen-initiated bill is intended to ban foreign governments and entities with certain connections to foreign governments from seeking to influence Maine election campaigns. The measure is also intended to encourage Maine’s congressional delegation to support amending the U.S. Constitution to undo or narrow certain U.S. Supreme Court decisions limiting regulation of campaign spending.

**Entities Subject to the Law.** The initiated measure would restrict the political activities of a class of entities that the measure calls “foreign government–influenced entities.” The measure defines these entities to include both foreign governments, whether or not recognized by the United States, and “firms, partnerships, corporations, associations, organizations and other entities” that meet one of two criteria:

- (1) A foreign government or entity that is majority-owned by a foreign government controls or owns, directly or indirectly, 5% or more of the entity; or,
- (2) A foreign government or entity that is majority-owned by a foreign government “directs, dictates, controls, or directly or indirectly participates in the decision-making process” with regard to the entity’s participation in election campaigns.

**Prohibitions on Election Activities.** The initiated bill would ban foreign government–influenced entities from engaging in certain election activities. Included in the ban would be making monetary or in-kind contributions, making expenditures (whether they are independent or in coordination with a candidate), making electioneering communications, and making any other donations or disbursement of funds to influence a campaign. The ban would apply to both candidate campaigns and referenda campaigns, including referenda for direct initiatives, people’s vetoes, constitutional amendments, bonds, Legislature-directed referenda, and county and municipal referenda.

The initiated measure also bans soliciting, accepting, or receiving a contribution by a foreign government–influenced entity or providing substantial assistance in carrying out any of the prohibited activities. It further prohibits structuring or attempting to structure transactions to evade the measure’s prohibitions.

The initiated measure would make a knowing violation of any of the above restrictions a Class C crime punishable by up to 5 years in prison and a criminal fine of up to \$5,000 for an individual. An entity could be punished with a criminal fine of up to \$20,000. The measure would also authorize the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to impose civil fines of up to \$5,000 for a violation, whether the violation was knowing or inadvertent.

**Disclosure Requirement for Other Public Communications.** The initiated bill does not ban foreign government–influenced entities from seeking to influence the public or any state, county, or local official or agency on matters of public policy. However, if these entities make expenditures to finance a public communication to influence government policy or a government’s relations with a foreign country or foreign political party, that communication would be required to contain a disclaimer. Specifically, the communication would have to conspicuously state that it is “sponsored by” the entity and disclose that the entity is a foreign government or foreign government–influenced entity. To be subject to this requirement, the communication must be to the public and made through television, newspaper,

magazine, campaign sign, the Internet, other digital methods, direct mail, or another type of general public political advertising, regardless of medium.

Violation of this disclosure provision would not be a crime but would be punishable by a civil fine of up to \$5,000, imposed by the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

**Obligations on the Media and Internet Platforms.** The law would impose “due diligence” requirements on television and radio broadcasting stations, providers of cable or satellite television, print news outlets, and Internet platforms. These entities would be subject to two requirements. First, they would be required to create policies reasonably designed to ensure that they did not disseminate communications illegally financed by foreign government–influenced entities. Second, if the entities discover they have distributed such a communication, they would be required to immediately remove it and report it to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Elections Practices.

**U.S. Constitutional Amendment.** The initiated measure would call on Maine’s congressional delegation to support and promote an amendment to the United States Constitution. The initiated measure does not specify language for the proposed amendment. Instead, it sets forth principles and rights that any proposed amendment should secure. These principles and rights include recognizing that all people have a right to influence and participate in government, which should not be allocated or constrained based on wealth; recognizing that Maine and other states must have authority to enact reasonable limits on the role of money in elections; recognizing principles of federalism and the sovereignty of Maine and other states; and recognizing the need for integrity of Maine elections and referenda against corruption and foreign influence. The initiated measure also reaffirms a joint resolution adopted by the Maine Legislature in 2013 that included language critical of certain United States Supreme Court decisions relating to campaign finance regulation, naming in particular *Buckley v. Valeo* and *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*.

The initiated measure does not purport to be binding on Maine’s congressional delegation. Instead, the initiated measure would require the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Elections Practices to issue an annual report identifying anticorruption amendment proposals in Congress and the members of Maine’s congressional delegation sponsoring such proposals.

**A “YES” vote is to enact the initiated legislation.**

**A “NO” vote opposes the initiated legislation.**

### **Question 3: Citizen’s Initiative**

**Do you want to create a new power company governed by an elected board to acquire and operate existing for-profit electricity transmission and distribution facilities in Maine?**

#### **Intent and Content**

**Prepared by the Office of the Attorney General**

This citizen-initiated bill is intended to replace Maine’s two investor-owned electricity transmission and distribution utilities, Central Maine Power and Versant Power, with a new publicly owned utility called the Pine Tree Power Company (the “Company”).

**Company Purposes.** The initiated measure specifies 8 purposes of the Company. They include delivering electricity in a safe, affordable, and reliable manner; ensuring excellence, timeliness and accuracy in billing, metering and customer service; providing an open, supportive and competitive platform to develop and deploy renewable generation, storage, efficiency and beneficial electrification technologies; assisting the State in rapidly meeting or exceeding climate goals; improving Internet connectivity; advancing economic, environmental and social justice; providing for accountable governance; and providing economic growth and benefits for the State.

**Company Organization.** The Company would be governed by a board of directors consisting of 13 voting members. Seven of the board members would be elected and 6 would be appointed. Board members would serve for staggered 6-year terms.

Each of the 7 elected board members would be elected by voters at a November general election. They would each represent 5 State Senate districts. A candidate for the board must be at least 21 years old, a U.S. citizen for at least 5 years, a Maine resident for at least 1 year, a resident of the area they seek to represent at least 3 months, and may not hold a state elected office. Candidates must qualify for the ballot under the laws governing non-party candidates; they may not run in party primaries. Board candidates are subject to the same campaign-finance laws as other candidates for state office.

The 6 non-elected board members would be appointed by the elected members. These members must collectively have expertise and experience in certain topics relating to utilities, utility employees, commercial or industrial electricity consumers, electricity, climate, and economic, environmental and social justice.

**Acquisition of Current Investor-Owned Utilities.** The Company would be required to acquire all “utility facilities” located in Maine that are owned or operated or held for future use by investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities. A “utility facility” is defined as any portion of a plant used or useful in providing transmission and distribution utility service. It includes transmission lines, office buildings, equipment, and transportation equipment.

The measure also permits, but does not require, the Company to acquire “utility property” from an investor-owned utility. “Utility property” is more broadly defined than “utility facility,” and includes any tangible or intangible asset, liability, obligation, plan, proposal, share, agreement or interest of a utility.

The measure provides a process for the Company to acquire these facilities and property. Under this process, the Company would first make a purchase offer to the current owner of the facilities or property. The owner could submit a counteroffer to the Company. If the Company rejects the counteroffer, the owner could then ask a court to determine the purchase price. If the owner did not file this court action within 30 days of the Company’s rejection of its counteroffer, the Company would be required to immediately take the facilities or property using eminent domain, paying the initial offer price as compensation.

If the investor-owned utility filed a timely court action, the court would conduct proceedings and issue an order establishing the purchase price. Once any appeals were completed, the Company would be required to immediately take the facilities or property using eminent domain, paying the court-determined purchase price as compensation. At any time during this process, the Company and the investor-owned utility could agree to a voluntary sale of the facilities or property. The Company would be required to finance the purchase or acquisition of utility facilities and property by issuing debt under the laws governing Maine public utilities.

Once a purchase price is established by agreement or court order, the investor-owned utility would be required to make the necessary regulatory filings and cooperate with the Company during the transition in ownership and control.

**Operation of Transmission and Distribution Facilities.** The Company would be required to contract with one or more private-sector “operators,” which would be responsible for operating the transmission and distribution facilities that the Company must acquire. The operator would also be responsible for maintenance, customer accounts management, and customer service and information. The contract must reward the operator’s performance and not the provision of capital, and must provide for the efficient and effective fulfillment of the Company’s purposes.

The Company would be barred from contracting with any operator that the Public Utilities Commission had, in the past 10 years, found “unfit to serve” under criteria set out in the initiated bill. The Commission would be required to find an operator unfit to serve if the operator was a transmission and distribution utility with more than 50,000 customers and met at least 4 of 8 unfitness criteria set forth in the initiated measure.

The operator would be required to offer to hire all qualified, nonexempt employees of Central Maine Power and Versant Power. The operator could also hire other employees of those utilities, except for members of the utility’s

executive board. The operator would be required to offer former utility employees retention bonuses. The operator would be required to honor existing collective bargaining agreements and could not limit or impair the ability and right of its employees to strike. The operator could not contract with other businesses to perform work that could reasonably be performed by the operator's qualified nonexempt employees.

**Other Provisions.** The initiated bill contains several other features, including the following:

- The Company must charge rates that cover the full costs of service, including debt and property tax costs;
- State Government is not responsible for the Company's debts;
- The Company is exempt from state and local income taxes but must pay property taxes;
- Company records are subject to Maine's Freedom of Access Act, with exceptions for customer and other sensitive records;
- The Company must propose an initial 5-year plan to meet certain affordability, reliability, decarbonization, and connectivity goals. The Public Utilities Commission must approve the plan.

A "YES" vote is to enact the initiated legislation.

A "NO" vote opposes the initiated legislation.

#### Question 4: Citizen's Initiative

**Do you want to require vehicle manufacturers to standardize on-board diagnostic systems and provide remote access to those systems and mechanical data to owners and independent repair facilities?**

##### Intent and Content

**Prepared by the Office of the Attorney General**

This citizen-initiated bill is intended to require automakers to take steps, including expanding access to on-board vehicle diagnostic systems, to make it easier for vehicle owners and independent repair shops to diagnose, repair, and maintain motor vehicles.

**Access to On-Board Diagnostic Systems.** The initiated measure would require vehicle manufacturers to standardize and make available to owners and independent repair shops the on-board diagnostic systems of all vehicles, including commercial vehicles and heavy-duty vehicles. Manufacturers could not require authorization for owners and independent repair shops to access these systems, except through a standardized authorization process administered by an independent entity chosen by the Maine Attorney General.

Specific access requirements would depend on the model year of the vehicle:

*Model year 2018 and later.* Vehicles with model years of 2018 and later would be required to have an on-board diagnostic system that could be accessed using an off-the-shelf personal computer. The system would also have to be accessible using certain other technologies. Manufacturers would also need to provide access to all parts, tools, software, and other components necessary to repair the vehicle.

*Model years 2002 to 2017.* Vehicles with model years between 2002 and 2017 would have to provide the same access to on-board diagnostic and repair information systems to owners and independent repair shops as is provided to new vehicle dealers.

*Model year 2002.* For vehicles with a 2002 model year, manufacturers would have to sell, under fair and reasonable terms, diagnostic repair tools, parts, software, and components that have the same capabilities as those the manufacturer makes available to its authorized repair shops. Manufacturers would also have to provide information to certain aftermarket scan tool companies, make available for purchase the same diagnostic repair information that the manufacturer makes available through its Internet-based diagnostic and repair information system, and provide access

to the manufacturer's diagnostic and repair information system for purchase on a daily, monthly, and yearly subscription basis. Finally, manufacturers would have to provide access to all parts, tools, software, and other components necessary to repair the vehicle.

*Model years prior to 2002.* The initiated measure has no provisions specifically addressing vehicles older than model year 2002.

**Telematics Access Platform.** The initiated measure would require manufacturers that use telematics systems to equip all new vehicles with a standardized platform to access vehicle information. A telematics system, as defined by the measure, collects information generated by a vehicle's operation and transmits that information using wireless communications to a remote receiving point. The required telematics access platform must be able to securely communicate all vehicle-specific data generated by, stored in or transmitted by the vehicle and used for diagnosis, repair, or maintenance of the vehicle. The platform must be accessible to the owner through a mobile app and must permit the owner to authorize dealers and independent repair shops to access the data. The platform must also include the ability to send commands to vehicle components if needed for maintenance, diagnosis, or repair.

**Exception for Security Systems.** Vehicle manufacturers would not be required to provide access to information needed to reset a vehicle immobilizer system or security-related electronic modules. However, if such information is withheld, the manufacturers must make such information available through the secure data release model system used by the National Automotive Service Task Force, or some other known, reliable and accepted system.

**Oversight.** The measure requires the Maine Attorney General to designate an independent entity to establish and administer access to vehicle data. The entity must include representatives of various industry trade groups and may not be controlled by vehicle manufacturers. The entity must manage cyber-secure access to vehicle data. It must also ensure that access to vehicles' on-board diagnostic system and standardized access platform is secure under United States and international standards. The entity must identify and adopt various standards and policies relating to data access.

If the independent entity has reason to believe that a manufacturer has violated any provision of the measure, it must notify the Attorney General. The measure directs the Attorney General to promptly institute any actions or proceedings he or she deems appropriate. The Attorney General may also seek court enforcement of any lawful order made or action taken by the independent entity.

The measure also requires the Attorney General to establish a notice for prospective vehicle owners containing certain information, including the owner's ability to access the vehicle's mechanical data through a mobile device and right to authorize an independent repair facility to access the vehicle's mechanical data. Dealers would be required to provide the notice to prospective owners and obtain a signed certification that the prospective owner has read the notice.

**Civil Remedy.** The initiated measure allows a vehicle owner or independent repair shop authorized by an owner to sue a vehicle manufacturer for denying access to mechanical data. For each denial of access, the owner or repair shop is entitled to recover 3 times their actual damages or \$10,000, whichever is greater.

**A "YES" vote is to enact the initiated legislation.**

**A "NO" vote opposes the initiated legislation.**

## Question 5: Constitutional Amendment

Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to change the time period for judicial review of the validity of written petitions from within 100 days from the date of filing to within 100 business days from the date of filing of a written petition in the office of the Secretary of State, with an exception for petitions filed within 30 calendar days before or after a general election?

### Intent and Content

Prepared by the Office of the Attorney General

The intent of this proposed amendment to the Maine Constitution is to give the Department of Secretary of State and the judicial branch more time to review whether petitions for citizens' initiatives and people's vetoes have enough valid signatures to meet constitutional requirements and to shield the Department of Secretary of State from having to divert resources to reviewing petitions while it is administering a general election.

The Maine Constitution currently provides in article IV, part third, section 22, that laws governing judicial review of the Secretary of State's determination of the validity of a citizens' initiative petition or people's veto petition must ensure that review is completed within 100 calendar days of when the petition is filed with the Secretary of State. Consistent with this provision, the Maine Legislature has enacted laws that establish deadlines for the Secretary of State's determination of validity, Superior Court review of that determination, and appeal to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, that add up to 100 calendar days.

Under the proposed amendment, the Legislature would be permitted to extend the deadlines for Secretary of State and judicial review, so that they collectively add up to 100 business days instead of 100 calendar days. Such an expansion would add approximately 40 calendar days to the maximum permitted review period. The Legislature could, through implementing legislation, allocate these extra days to the Secretary of State, the Superior Court, and the Maine Supreme Judicial Court as it saw fit.

The proposed amendment also contains language that would allow the Legislature to further extend the deadlines for written petitions filed with the Secretary of State around the time of a November general election. Specifically, if a petition for a direct initiative or people's veto were filed with the Secretary of State within 30 calendar days before or after a November general election, the proposed amendment would allow any time that elapses between the date of filing and the date 30 calendar days after the election to be excluded from the calculation of the 100-day deadline.

**A "YES" vote is to amend the Maine Constitution to allow more time for review of citizens' initiative and people's veto petitions.**

**A "NO" vote opposes this change to the Maine Constitution.**

## Question 6: Constitutional Amendment

Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to require that all of the provisions of the Constitution be included in the official printed copies of the Constitution prepared by the Secretary of State?

### Intent and Content

Prepared by the Office of the Attorney General

The intent of this proposed amendment to the Maine Constitution is to require inclusion in the official printing of the Maine Constitution of three provisions that are already part of the Constitution but, under current law, cannot be included in its official printings.

The proposed amendment would accomplish this purpose by repealing article X, section 7, of the Maine Constitution. That section requires sections 1, 2, and 5, of article X to be omitted in copies of the Maine Constitution that appear in

printings of the laws of Maine. That section also contains language ensuring that the omitted provisions have the same legal effect as if they were printed.

A brief description of each currently omitted provision follows:

- *Section 1* of article X contains a schedule for the election and convening of the first Maine Legislature in 1821. It also established initial electoral districts for the Maine House of Representatives and Maine Senate.
- *Section 2* of article X established special terms of office for officials elected in the 1821 election.
- *Section 5* of article X reprints and incorporates into the Maine Constitution provisions of the 1819 Massachusetts law authorizing the separation of Maine from Massachusetts. These provisions are known as the Articles of Separation. There are nine Articles. The Articles describe rights and obligations of Maine and Massachusetts relating to separation, including division of property and assets, the assignment of certain Massachusetts obligations to Maine, and the treatment of certain public lands.

If the proposed constitutional amendment is approved, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, who is responsible for periodically arranging the Maine Constitution, could include these previously omitted provisions in the next official arrangement of the Constitution. Once approved by the Legislature, such an arrangement could lawfully be printed by the Secretary of State.

**A “YES” vote is to amend the Maine Constitution to remove restrictions on printing some of its provisions.**

**A “NO” vote opposes this change to the Maine Constitution.**

## **Question 7: Constitutional Amendment**

**Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to remove a provision requiring a circulator of a citizen's initiative or people's veto petition to be a resident of Maine and a registered voter in Maine, requirements that have been ruled unconstitutional in federal court?**

### **Intent and Content**

**Prepared by the Office of the Attorney General**

The intent of this proposed amendment to the Maine Constitution is to remove a provision that can no longer be enforced due to an injunction issued by a federal court.

The Maine Constitution currently provides in article IV, part third, section 20, that individuals who gather signatures for petitions for citizens' initiatives or people's vetoes must be Maine residents registered to vote in their town of residence. In 2020, a group of plaintiffs in a federal lawsuit, *We the People PAC v. Bellows*, No. 1:20-cv-00489, claimed that these requirements violated their First Amendment rights under the United States Constitution. After proceedings in the United States District Court for the District of Maine and the First Circuit Court of Appeals, the District Court entered a permanent injunction prohibiting the Maine Secretary of State from enforcing the circulator residency and registration requirements.

The proposed constitutional amendment would remove from the Maine Constitution these now-unenforceable requirements.

**A “YES” vote is to remove the residency and registration requirements for petition circulators from the Maine Constitution.**

**A “NO” vote opposes this change to the Maine Constitution.**

## Question 8: Constitutional Amendment

Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to remove a provision prohibiting a person under guardianship for reasons of mental illness from voting for Governor, Senators and Representatives, which the United States District Court for the District of Maine found violates the United States Constitution and federal law?

### Intent and Content

Prepared by the Office of the Attorney General

The intent of this proposed amendment to the Maine Constitution is to remove a provision that a federal court determined violates the United States Constitution and federal law.

The Maine Constitution currently provides in article II, section 1, that persons who are “under guardianship for reasons of mental illness” are not qualified to vote for Governor, State Representative, or State Senator. In 2000, a group of plaintiffs filed a federal lawsuit, *Doe v. Rome*, No. 00-cv-206, in the United States District Court for the District of Maine claiming that this restriction violated their rights under the due process and equal protection provisions of the United States Constitution as well as under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In a 2001 decision, the District Court agreed with the plaintiffs, ruling that this restriction on voting was facially unconstitutional and violated the ADA. As a result of the ruling, the State no longer enforces this restriction.

The proposed constitutional amendment would remove from the Maine Constitution this now-unenforceable restriction.

A “YES” vote is to remove the provision making people under guardianship for reasons of mental illness ineligible to vote.

A “NO” vote opposes this change to the Maine Constitution.





# ANNUAL TOWN MEETING RESULTS BUDGET RESULTS



## Municipal Budget

Town Meeting was held on Saturday, April 15, 2023 at the North Berwick Elementary School and was attended by approximately 57 citizens. The results of the budget are as follows for Fiscal Year 2024:

	<u>FY23</u>	<u>FY22</u>	<u>Inc(Dec)</u>
Taxation	\$3,169,315.00	\$3,378,127.00	6.59%
State Rev. Sharing	\$290,710.00	\$379,050.00	30.39%
Excise Tax	\$1,087,070.00	\$1,087,070.00	1.57%
Equipment Fund	\$170,460.00	\$170,460.00	-41.15%
Misc. Fees:	\$330,915.00	\$366,500.00	10.75%
Road Block Grant	\$69,500.00	\$69,500.00	0.72%
Enterprise Fund	\$149,275.00	\$152,750.00	3.02%
Designated Surplus	\$35,000.00	\$10,000.00	-71.43%
ARPA/Grants	\$89,000.00	\$89,000.00	0.00%
Undes. Surplus	<u>\$333,840.00</u>	<u>\$367,000.00</u>	<u>-11.32%</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$5,805,085.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,016,845.00</u></b>	<b><u>3.65%</u></b>

After all the articles were acted upon, the total budget increased by \$211,760.00 or a 3.65% increase. The amount needed from Taxation to fund the budget increased by \$208,812.00.

## By Department

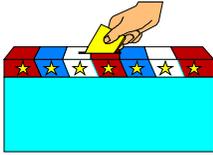
	<u>FY23</u>	<u>FY24</u>	<u>% Inc(Dec)</u>
Highway	\$630,115.00	\$609,590.00	-3.26%
Capital Imp.	\$892,974.00	\$781,183.00	-12.52%
General Gov.	\$1,130,065.00	\$1,231,930.00	9.01%
Protection	\$2,301,448.00	\$2,491,889.00	8.27%
Library	\$277,350.00	\$303,241.00	9.34%
Parks and Rec.	\$136,670.00	\$146,580.00	7.25%
Health and Social	\$295,883.00	\$311,473.00	5.27%
Other	\$44,665.00	\$45,044.00	0.85%
Debt	<u>\$95,915.00</u>	<u>\$95,915.00</u>	<u>0.00%</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$5,805,085.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$6,016,845.00</u></b>	<b><u>3.65%</u></b>

## Capital Improvement Budget

Highway	\$654,955.00	\$500,000.00	-30.99%
Parks and Rec.	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
General Gov.	\$0.00	\$75,000.00	
Police	\$45,460.00	\$55,318.00	21.68%
Rescue	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	0.00%
Transfer Station	\$42,000.00	\$00.00	
Library	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Fire	<u>\$150,559.00</u>	<u>\$125,865.00</u>	<u>-19.62%</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$892,974.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$781,183.00</u></b>	<b><u>-12.52%</u></b>

**County Budget:** The York County Budget assessment to the town increased by \$2,479.00 for FY23. The Town of North Berwick's portion of the County Budget for FY23 is \$407,689.00.

**Education Budget:** This year the overall SAD #60 budget increased by \$270,400.00 or 1.46%, and the district had an increase of taxation to the three communities totaling \$1,149,979.00 due to loss of State Aid to Education. The town's share of the SAD 60 budget is \$6,796,410.00 or an \$405,406.00 increase. North Berwick's percentage of SAD 60's cost has increased this year from 29.50% to 29.79% due to the Town's State valuation and lower pupil count. Berwick and Lebanon's share of the education costs are 39.05% (\$8,909,024.00 which represented a \$360,242.00 increase) and 31.16% (\$7,108,967.00 which represented a \$384,331.00 increase) respectively.



## VOTING RESULTS

The following individuals were elected into office during voting at Town Meeting;

Charles Galemmo, Selectboard  
Joshua Tabor, SAD 60 Board  
Gregg Drew, Cemetery Trustee  
Stephanie Camire, Cemetery Trustee  
Justin Griffin, Cemetery Trustee  
James Muthig, Water District Trustee  
Carl Works, Water District Trustee

Maurice Dolbec, Sanitary District Trustee  
Daniel Baker, Budget Committee  
Julie Fernee, Budget Committee  
Rebecca Reed, Budget Committee  
Mark Roulliard, Budget Committee  
Stephanie Camire, Budget Committee  
Beverly Gray, Budget Committee

## REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

**Question #1:** Shall an ordinance entitled “Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments to Amend Shoreland Zoning setback from 100 feet to 75 feet” be enacted?

**YES 154 NO 161 - NOT APPROVED**

**Question #2:** Shall an ordinance entitled “Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments to amend Recreational Vehicles to require a permit for use as a dwelling for more than 90 days and no more than 120 days” be enacted?

**YES 201 NO 116 - APPROVED**

**Question #3:** Shall an ordinance entitled “Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments to enact Solar Energy Performance Standards” be enacted?

**YES 232 NO 82 - APPROVED**

**Question #4:** Shall an ordinance entitled, “Ordinance amending the North Berwick Zoning Ordinance to expand areas in and near the Residential 1 Zone where industrial uses will not be permitted and to make conforming changes to the Zoning Map,” be enacted?

**YES 228 NO 82 - APPROVED**

**Question #5:** Shall an ordinance entitled, “An Ordinance Amending Section 6.3 and 8.3 of the Subdivision Ordinance to require the submission of a proposed subdivision plan in a format acceptable to the York County Registry of Deeds” be enacted?

**YES 257 NO 51 - APPROVED**

**Question #6:** Shall on ordinance entitled, Town of north Berwick Littering Ordinance” be enacted?

**YES 267 NO 49 - APPROVED**

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS - UPDATES

### Town Office:

**Server Project:** The Town replaces our computer servers on a 5-year timeframe. The estimated cost of replacement is \$20,000.00. The purchase will include a Dell Power Edge T440 server with Microsoft windows server 2022, Microsoft M365 Business standard for the Town’s software and email server. *The server was installed in October 2023.*

**Roof Project:** Voters approved the replacement of the shingles on the Town Hall at an estimated cost of \$55,000.00. The shingles were replaced on the front side of the building 3 years ago and the remaining 3 sides have been held off until the Verizon project had been completed on the roof. Verizon is anticipated to be completed this year. *Hall Brothers Roofing has completed the reroofing of the Town Hall in October, 2023.*

## **Fire Department:**

***Tanker:*** Voters approved the \$35,979.00 payment on the tanker purchase 7 years ago. ***This is the eighth payment on the 10-year bond to fund the purchase of the tanker***

***Fire Station Planning:*** Over the past three years, the town has been appropriating \$50,000.00 a year for the planning of a new Fire Station. In December 2018, the Select Board in conjunction with the Planning Committee, entered into a contract with Port City Architecture to complete a feasibility study for the new facility. The proposed facility will house both the Fire Department and Rescue Squad on land owned by the Town on Lebanon Road, incorporating the existing Rescue Squad Building into the design. This land is geographically located in the center of the Town. Port City Architecture completed a feasibility study in the Summer/Fall of 2019. Conceptual Plans have been created of the proposed new Station; however, final design has not been completed. Voters approved the appropriation of \$50,000.00 to continue the process of planning for a new facility for the Fire Department and Rescue Squad. ***At this time the project has been placed on hold due to the projected construction costs. It is hoped to revisit the project within the next year.***

***Pumper:*** Voters approved the replacement of the 1993 Fire Pumper with a new E-One Typhoon Pumper which is similar to the pumper purchased by the Town 10 years ago. Voters approved the utilization of \$275,000.00 from Pumper Reserve Fund and a \$15,000.00 prepayment credit to be used toward the \$665,000.00 purchase price and financed the remaining \$375,000.00 through a 10 year lease agreement. This kept yearly payments to \$44,388.77 and within the budget frame work. ***The Fire Truck has been ordered and expected in the spring of 2024.***

***SCBA:*** The Fire Department Air Packs (SCBA) have not been replaced since 2002 and the availability of parts to maintain them has grown increasingly difficult. In order to replace the air packs, they must be done all at once to ensure that firefighters can switch out oxygen bottles properly and that all the equipment is matched. The proposal is to purchase 30 MSA G-1 SCBA packs with masks along with 30 bottles. The proposed cost of this project is \$265,000.00 and it is proposed to purchase the air packs on a 10-year time frame. ***The Town will complete the bonding of the air packs in November 2023 and then the air packs will be purchased.***

## **Police Department:**

***Police Cruiser:*** Voters approved the Police Department purchase on a replacement SUV. The Town currently maintains 5 SUV's in our fleet and we have found that the maintenance costs are significantly less than the standard cruiser even as the vehicles age. The SUV model also allows for the department to respond to emergencies in all types of weather. This replacement cruiser will replace the first SUV purchased by the Town in 2016. ***The SUV has been purchased and is being utilized by the Police Department.***

## **Public Works:**

Voters approved the replacement of the 25 year old sickle bar mower that was increasingly difficult to find parts to repair with a flail boom mower that attaches to the Town's MT Trackless machine. This provided the Town with a solution to its roadside mowing that has been challenging over the past several years. ***The Flail Mower has been purchased and was utilized during this past mowing season.***

## **Rescue:**

***Ambulance:*** Voters approved the appropriation of \$25,000.00 towards the purchase of a new Ambulance to replace the 2008 Ambulance. It was planned to purchase the ambulance in FY25, however, due to ambulance purchases requiring an 18-24 month build time, voters also authorized the Select Board to order the ambulance estimated at \$376,000.00, with the understanding that the delivery of the ambulance will be in late 2024 (after July 1 2024) to early 2025 and payment will not due until we take delivery. ***The Ambulance has been ordered with expected delivery in late 2024 with payment due at time of delivery.***

## Community Center: (Impact Fee Budget)

**Roof Repair:** The metal roof had not been reviewed since it was installed over 20 years ago. There are a few leaks that had been found due to the roof needing to have the screws tightened, and in some instances, replaced. It was also necessary to reseal around the kitchen hoods on the roof. **Hall Brothers completed the roof project in October 2023.**

**Chairs and Tables:** It had been nearly 12 years since the tables and chairs in the community center were replaced. Voters approved the replacement of 95 chairs with Advantage Black Vinyl-padded banquet stackable chairs and the 12 folding tables with Lifetime plastic folding tables. **The Tables and chairs will be order prior to December 2023.**

**Heat Pumps:** In order to provide air conditioning in the Community Center, the Town has relied on window air conditioners that typically last around 2 years. This is due primarily to the limitations of the electrical system and the sizing of the window units which typically become overworked during extended heat during the summer months. With the ever-increasing usage of the Community Center in the summer months and with the new heat pump technology, voters approved the installation of 3 Mitsubishi heat pumps (2-36,000 BTU and 1-12,000 BTU) to air condition the Community Center. The added bonus will be the ability to utilize the heat pumps as supplemental heat, during the fall and Spring months, for the propane heating system currently utilized to heat the Community Center. **This project was completed in June 2023.**

**Generator:** The Town currently has generators for most of the town's buildings for backup power, however, a generator was never installed at the Community Center. With the growing electrical outages within the community and the need for a warming shelter or simply a place for people to go when power is lost for an extended period of time during winter months, voters approved the installation of a Generac 22 KW generator at the Community Center for use by both the Parks and Recreation Department and the Emergency Management Department of the Town. **The generator has been installed and the Town is currently waiting on the hookup of the new propane tanks to fuel the generator. The project is anticipated to be completed by December, 2023.**

## ROAD PROJECTS

### FY2024 ROAD CIP

**BOND ISSUE:** Ten years ago, the Town issued a \$1,000,000.00 bond to assist with the maintenance of the Town's Road network. Voters approved another \$1,000,000.00 bond to utilize towards the Town's road network. **The Town will complete the bonding process in November of 2023 to reimburse the general fund for the capital projects completed this summer construction season.**

Proposed projects for this year:

**Linscott Hill Road** – Shim and Overlay from Fox Farm Hill Road to Sanford Townline, 3,630 feet. **This project has been completed.**

**Dillingham Road** – Reconstruct the first 600 feet and Shim and Overlay from Lebanon Road to Top of Hill, 3,475 feet. **This project has been completed.**

**Little River Road** – Shim and Overlay from Bridge to Lebanon Town Line, 2,300 feet. **This project has been completed.**

**Morrells Mill Road** – Shim and Overlay from Valley to Sanford Town Line, 15,325 feet. **This project has been completed.**

**Governor Goodwin Road** – Mill 1" and Pave All, 11,845 feet. **This project has been completed.**

**Madison Street** – Shim and Overlay from Bridge to Market Street, 1,625 feet **This project has been completed.**

**Sand Pond Road Bridge** – In 2022, the State of Maine conducted an inspection of the Sand Pond Road Culvert and found it to be in need of replacement in the coming years. This culvert is jointly owned between the Town of North Berwick and the City of Sanford. It is planned to replace the culvert in FY26, however, the engineering needs to take place prior to the project being completed. North Berwick and Sanford have engaged the services of Wright Pierce Engineers to prepare the preliminary engineering to replace the culvert with a suitable solution. **The engineering study is scheduled to be completed in November/December 2023.**

**Brewer Road** – Shim and Overlay All (In conjunction with Water District Project), 560 feet. **This project will be completed in the Spring of 2024.**

**Valley Road** – Shim and Overlay from Lebanon Road to Oak Woods Road, 4,260 feet. **This project will be completed in the Spring of 2024.**

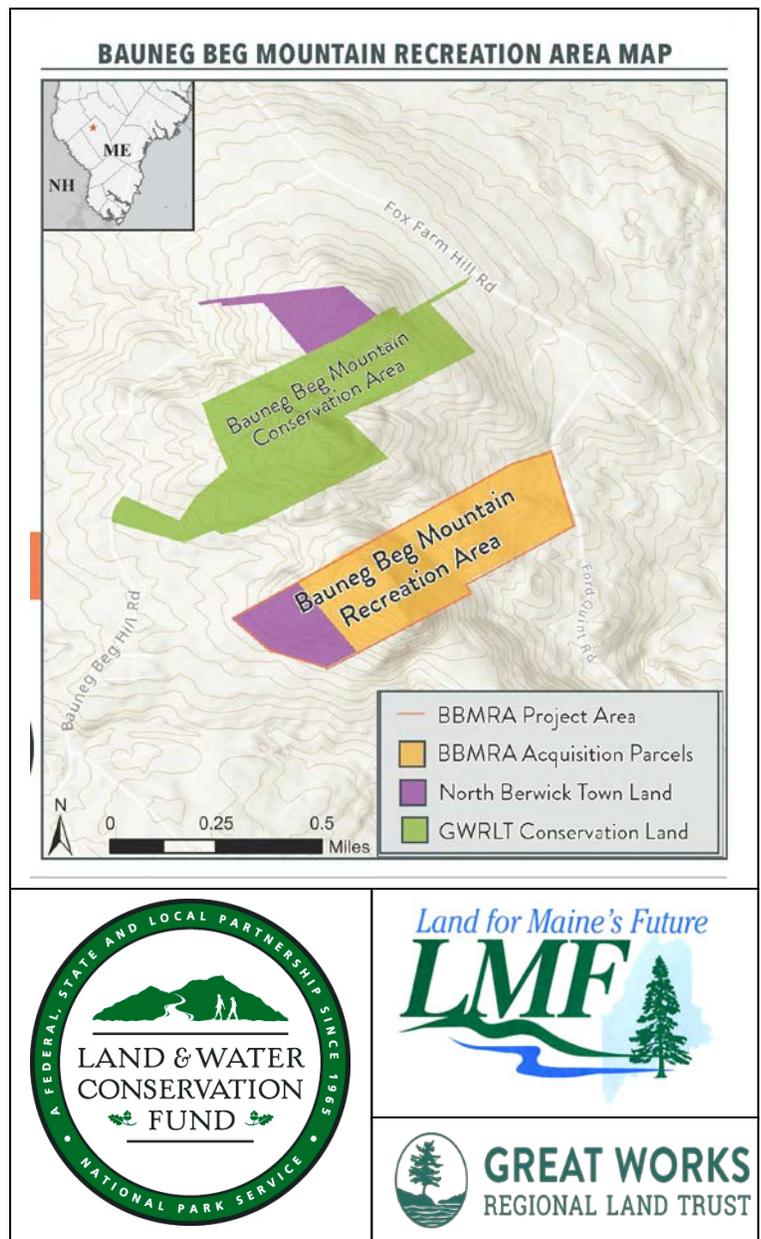
## **BAUNEG BEG MOUNTAIN RECREATION AREA PROJECT UPDATE**

On September 6, 2023, the Town of North Berwick in conjunction with the Great Works Regional Land Trust purchased the South Peak of Bauneg Beg Mountain from the Thompson Family.

Funding for the project was made possible by grants from the Land for Maine's Future Program, in the amount of \$181,700.00, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, project number 23-009906, in the amount of \$180,975.00, \$100,000.00 from the Town's Impact Fee Fund (i.e., not tax dollars) and from Great Works Regional Land Trust donors.

The acquisition of the 61 acre parcel coupled with the Town's 2 other Bauneg Beg Mountain parcels, 14 acres and 9 acres and the Great Works Regional Land Trust Conservation Area parcel, 87 acres, protects all three peaks of Bauneg Beg Mountain, 171 Acres in total.

Trail construction on the Bauneg Beg Mountain Recreation Area parcels has begun and should be complete in the Spring of 2024. Parking lot construction will begin in the Spring of 2024 with completion anticipated by Summer 2024.



## TAX RATE ESTABLISHED AT \$10.75

The Select Board has established the FY2024 Tax Rate for the Town at **\$10.75** per thousand dollars of valuation. This represents a **\$0.40 decrease** in the tax rate. The Town also performed a valuation adjustment on building values for properties throughout the town. This is the fifth year in a row that the Town had to adjust property values in order to maintain the assessing valuations between 91-100% of market value, as determined by the State of Maine. This adjustment allows the Town to offer the full homestead exemption to property owners and to ensure that the town will receive the full reimbursement from the State for programs such as Revenue Sharing and BETE reimbursement. (This represents over \$1.6 million dollars that helps offset property taxes.) This past year, values slipped to 74% of market value below the 90% threshold. After a review of the sales data and the town's valuation data, the assessor increased residential building tables to bring the town's expected assessment ratio to 91%. The valuation adjustment coupled with the increased valuation the town realized from new construction allowed the Selectmen to establish the tax rate.

This year it was generally predicted that the Town would see an increase in our mill rate due primarily to an increase in the MSAD 60 portion of the budget and an increase in Town expenditures. The town also saw growth in the town's valuation due to new home construction. As a result of the valuation adjustment and new construction valuation, 8.73% of property owners saw a decrease in their tax bill, 10.26% had less than a \$25 increase in their tax bill, 5.78% saw an increase between \$25-100.00 in their tax bill, 18.20% saw an increase between \$100.01-250.00 in their tax bill, 33.49% saw an increase between \$250.01-500.00 in their tax bill and 23.55% saw an increase of over \$500.00. (The 23.55% of property owners with more than a \$500.00 increase was mainly due to building improvements made on their property in the prior year.)

### \$10.75 Tax Rate

	<u>FY2023</u>	<u>FY2024</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Combined Diff</u>
<b>Municipal Appropriation</b>	\$ 3,077,775.00	\$3,326,617.00	\$ 248,842.00	\$ 343,218.87
<b>TIF financing plan amount</b>	\$ 22,664.61	\$24,426.15	\$ 1,761.55	
<b>Overlay</b>	\$ 260,650.80	\$353,266.12	\$ 92,615.32	
School/Educational Appropriations	\$ 6,391,004.00	\$6,796,410.00	\$ 405,406.00	\$ 405,406.00
County Tax	\$ 405,210.00	\$407,689.00	\$ 2,479.00	\$ 2,479.00
<b>Totals</b>	\$ 10,157,304.40	\$ 10,908,408.27	\$ 751,103.87	\$ 748,624.87
Local Taxable Real Estate Valuation	\$ 672,516,000.00	\$788,724,100.00	\$ 116,208,100.00	
Local Personal Property Valuation	\$ 50,783,310.00	\$50,273,100.00	\$ (510,210.00)	
Total of Homestead Exempt Value	\$ 21,170,000.00	\$ 22,648,000.00	\$ 1,478,000.00	
BETE Reimbursement Value	\$ 166,499,694.75	\$ 153,090,453.00	\$ (13,409,241.75)	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 910,969,004.75</b>	<b>\$ 1,014,735,653.00</b>	<b>\$ 103,766,648.25</b>	

**Keep up to date on all the Town of North Berwick News and Events!**

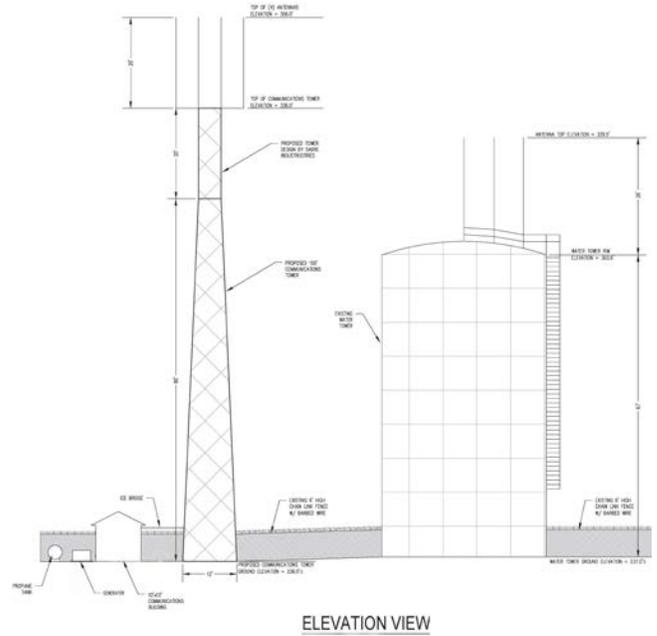
**Check out the town's Website at:**

**[townofnorthberwick.org](http://townofnorthberwick.org)**



**ARPA Funding:**

**Communications Project:** Voters approved the installation of a Communications Tower for the Town's Public Safety Departments utilizing \$197,000.00 of ARPA funds received as part of the federal Covid relief package. The installation of the Tower at the Water Tank site was determined to be the best solution to solve the Town's radio issues caused by the presence of Bauneg Beg Mountain in our town which does not allow for radio signals to reach the backside of the mountain and creating areas where the radio signal is weak or non-existent. Included in the project are a communication shed with back-up generator power. In addition, the County of York will be upgrading the Blueberry Ridge Communications Tower at an estimated cost of \$1,400,000.00 which will assist with Fire and Rescue Communications on the backside of Bauneg Beg Mountain.



*The tower was installed this past summer along with the communications shed and generator. The Town is currently waiting on the FCC for our license modifications so that the antennas can be moved from the water tank to the new tower and the frequencies can become active. The current goal is to be operational by winter of 2023/2024.*

**HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR**

WITCH'S STORYTIME  
 FORTUNE TELLER  
 JACK-O-LANTERN CONTEST

SWEET TREATS  
 BONFIRE

HAUNTED TRAIL 7-9PM  
 MONSTER MASH DANCE BASH

**OCTOBER 28TH 5:30-9PM**  
**N.B. COMMUNITY CENTER**

NB REC DEPT PRESENTS..

**HAUNTED TRAIL**

October 28th  
 7-9pm  
 Free Community event

264 Lebanon Rd  
 North Berwick  
 Community Center

**COME IF YOU DARE**

**Jack O Lantern Contest**

Drop off:  
 Saturday 10/28  
 12pm-3pm  
 @ NB Comm. Center

Prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd



**NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023  
POLLS OPEN FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.  
NO. BERWICK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



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**PLEASE  OTE**

**Town of North Berwick  
21 Main Street  
P.O. Box 422  
North Berwick, Maine 03906**

**BULK RATE  
U.S.  
POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #6  
NORTH BERWICK**

**ECR-WSS  
Postal Customer**