

# TOWN OF GOFFSTOWN



## TOWN VOTERS' GUIDE

**2026 Official Ballot**

**&**



## SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTERS' GUIDE

**2026 Official Ballot**

The Goffstown Select Board and Goffstown School Board are pleased to present the 2026 VOTERS' GUIDE. All town and school articles which will appear on the Official Ballots are included with explanations following each article. Both boards strive toward improving communication with the Goffstown community, and we sincerely hope this guide will assist you in making informed voting decisions. (All tax rate estimates provided are based on projected revenues that include federal, state and local sources and are subject to change.)

**Please remember to exercise your right to vote on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM at Goffstown High School (District 1) or Bartlett Elementary School (District 5).**

Your comments regarding this newsletter are welcome. Please submit comments regarding Town articles to Peter Georgantas, Select Board Chairman, [Peter.Georgantas@GoffstownNH.gov](mailto:Peter.Georgantas@GoffstownNH.gov) and comments regarding School District articles to Heather Trzepacz, School Board Chair, [Heather.Trzepacz@SAU19.org](mailto:Heather.Trzepacz@SAU19.org).

# 2026 TOWN ARTICLES

## ARTICLE 1 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

### SELECT BOARD

For 3 Years      Vote for not more than One  
Brian Belanger        
Allison DeCesere        
Write In: \_\_\_\_\_

### BUDGET COMMITTEE

For 3 Years      Vote for not more than Four  
Joe Spoerl        
Craig Stansfield        
Laura Stevens        
Christine Templeton        
Olivia Welch-Erdahl        
Blaine Hanson        
Brian Mazur        
Jessica Peutin        
Write In: \_\_\_\_\_   
Write In: \_\_\_\_\_   
Write In: \_\_\_\_\_   
Write In: \_\_\_\_\_

### CEMETERY TRUSTEE

For 3 Years      Vote for not more than One  
Deb Grant        
Linda Reynolds Naughton        
Write In: \_\_\_\_\_

### LIBRARY TRUSTEES

For 3 Years      Vote for not more than Three  
David Banach        
Jessica Caron        
Casey Leach        
Write In: \_\_\_\_\_   
Write In: \_\_\_\_\_   
Write In: \_\_\_\_\_

### PLANNING BOARD

For 3 Years      Vote for not more than Two  
Phil D'Avanza        
Kimberly Peace        
Write In: \_\_\_\_\_   
Write In: \_\_\_\_\_

### SEWER COMMISSION

For 3 Years      Vote for not more than One  
Write In: \_\_\_\_\_

### SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST

For 6 Years      Vote for not more than One  
Denise Lemay        
Write In: \_\_\_\_\_

### SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST

For 2 Years      Vote for not more than One  
Sharon Lefebvre DeWitt        
Karen Monasky        
Write In: \_\_\_\_\_

### TOWN CLERK

For 3 Years      Vote for not more than One  
Jennifer Sullivan        
Write In: \_\_\_\_\_

### TOWN MODERATOR

For 2 Years      Vote for not more than One  
Rodney L Stark        
Write In: \_\_\_\_\_

### TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS

For 3 Years      Vote for not more than One  
Fred Plett        
Write In: \_\_\_\_\_

### ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

For 3 Years      Vote for not more than Two  
John J Beliveau        
Leonard "Len" Stuart        
Write In: \_\_\_\_\_   
Write In: \_\_\_\_\_

## ARTICLE 2

Are you in favor of the adoption of an amendment to the Goffstown Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board, to amend the definition of Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) in the Zoning Glossary as well as in Section 5.2, clarifying the definitions for attached and detached ADUs by allowing detached accessory dwelling units as adopted and mandated by the NH House Bill 577 (laws of 2025, Chapter 197)?

**Recommended by the Planning Board 5-2-0.**

### EXPLANATION:

Mandated by the State of NH Legislature. Changes to definition of Accessory Dwelling Units and allowing detached units where permitted by zoning.

## ARTICLE 3

Are you in favor of the adoption of an amendment to the Goffstown Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board, to amend the provisions of Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) in Section 5.2 and corresponding addition to Section 14.9 Non-Conforming Structures, clarifying ADU provisions and allowing additional flexibility for the homeowner as adopted and mandated by the NH House Bill 577 (laws of 2025, Chapter 197)?

**Recommended by the Planning Board 5-2-0.**

### EXPLANATION:

Mandated by the State of NH Legislature to provide additional flexibility to the current requirements of Accessory Dwelling Units.

## ARTICLE 4

Are you in favor of the adoption of an amendment to the Goffstown Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board, by allowing Multi-Family Dwelling Use on Commercially zoned land as adopted and mandated by NH House Bill 631 (laws of 2025, Chapter 201)?

*Note: This change would require approved commercial use on the ground floor, except where the Planning Board grants a Conditional Use Permit. Also, this Amendment would include amending Section 3.11 Table of Uses as well as adding a Section under 4.4 Multi-Family Dwellings. The amendment also requires adequate infrastructure (roads, water and sewer) be provided. The intent of this amendment is to comply with NH House Bill 631, while retaining the requirement for commercial use on the ground floor in the Commercial Zone.*

**Recommended by the Planning Board 4-3-0.**

### EXPLANATION:

Mandated by the State of NH Legislature to allow Multi-Family Dwelling Units in the Commercial zone with certain restrictions.

## ARTICLE 5

Are you in favor of the adoption of an amendment to the Goffstown Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board, by amending Section 7.2.5. Table of Off-Street Parking and Section 7.2.5 Table of Off-Street Parking Requirements by requiring one (1) residential parking space per unit and removing all requirements for guest parking as adopted and mandated by NH Senate Bill 284 (laws of 2025, Chapter 258)? Also, adding ADU to the studio apartment category in Table 7.2.5 which also will have the requirement of one space per unit.

*Recommended by the Planning Board 4-3-0.*

### EXPLANATION:

Mandated by the State of NH Legislature by reducing the number of residential parking spaces required from two per single family home to one. Reduced from two per unit of a multi-family complex to one. Accessory Dwelling Units will also be required to provide one parking space. Guest parking spaces have also been eliminated.

## ARTICLE 6

Are you in favor of the adoption of an amendment to the Goffstown Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board, by amending Accessory Dwelling Unit Provision Section 5.2.1 by increasing the square footage allowance of an Accessory Dwelling Unit from eight hundred (800) square feet of gross floor area to nine-hundred fifty (950) square feet of gross floor area, as allowed by NH House Bill 577 (laws of 2025, Chapter 197)?

*Recommended by the Planning Board 5-2-0.*

### EXPLANATION:

This article would allow for an increase in the square footage for an Accessory Dwelling by 150 square feet of gross floor area from the current maximum of 800 square feet to the proposed square footage of 950 square feet.

## ARTICLE 7

Are you in favor of the adoption of an amendment to the Goffstown Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board, by amending the definition of Buildable Area as follows: Buildable Area - Any of the area of a parcel, except: (a) submerged land area; (b) wetlands; (c) any land within 100 feet of wetlands of at least 2,000 contiguous square feet; (d) slopes in excess of 20%; (e) high-tension power line utility easements; (f) the area of any proposed public or private street rights-of-way; and (g) special flood hazard areas as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in its "Flood Insurance Study for the County of Hillsborough, N.H" dated September 25, 2009 or as amended?

*Recommended by the Planning Board 6-1-0.*

### EXPLANATION:

This article amends the definition of Buildable Area by expanding the criteria for what land qualifies as buildable area by including the whole parcel, with the exceptions noted above.

## ARTICLE 8

Are you in favor of the adoption of an amendment to the Goffstown Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board, by moving Section 13.5 Open Space Development from Section 13 Overlay Districts to Section 5 Supplemental Standards, creating a new Section 5.25 Open Space Development and by amending multiple sections under the provisions of RSA 674:16 and RSA 674:21, Innovative Land Use Controls as well as removing section 3.7.2?

*Note: full language available at the Goffstown Planning Department upon request.*

*Recommended by the Planning Board 7-0-0.*

### EXPLANATION:

This article is a rewrite of the current Open Space Ordinance. Multiple sections have been amended.

## ARTICLE 9

### GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET

Shall the Town of Goffstown vote to raise and appropriate as a General Fund 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 \$27,519,425?

Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$26,648,427, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Goffstown, or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

*Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.*

*Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-5-0.*

### EXPLANATION:

The General Fund is the primary operating fund for the Town, covering the expenses for Town Hall, Police, Fire, Public Works, Parks & Recreation, and the Library. This fund is mainly supported by property taxes, local fees and revenues, and shared revenue from the State of New Hampshire.

### Cost Drivers

- Cost increases for goods and services to maintain same level of Town services.
- Increased Software, Hardware, & Telecom costs + \$67,850 / + 10.8% vs. 2025
- Increases in Health/Safety/Equipment Measures for 1st Responders + \$74,452 / + 19.5% vs 2025
- Increases in Solid Waste, Recycling, Household Hazardous Waste disposal fees + \$124,800 / + 20.6% vs. 2025
- Workers Comp and Property Liability Insurance Premiums + \$ 79,961 / 21.0%
- Non-Union Wage Increases (80 FTEs in Town General Fund)

*explanation continued on next page...*

2026 TOWN BUDGET SUMMARY - APPROPRIATIONS				
	2025		2026	
	ADOPTED	ACTUALS* (unaudited)	DEFAULT	PROPOSED
<b>TOWN HALL BUDGET</b>				
41300 Administration	602,665	636,502	612,605	634,719
41400 Town Clerk	291,680	240,390	259,150	267,202
41401 Election	36,036	32,075	51,036	62,286
41500 Finance	430,844	402,297	442,599	452,342
41510 Tax Collection	119,721	116,112	122,301	124,665
41530 Information Technology	1,158,595	1,138,137	1,165,001	1,261,810
41520 Revaluation of Property	202,192	179,630	206,818	192,742
41910 Planning, Zoning & Econ	331,244	290,452	285,006	287,650
41990 Other General Govt	27,100	13,581	27,100	20,900
42400 Building/Health Inspect	164,290	137,095	138,027	141,073
44410 Human Services	20,940	16,754	20,997	20,847
<b>TOWN HALL TOTAL</b>	<b>3,385,307</b>	<b>3,203,026</b>	<b>3,330,640</b>	<b>3,466,236</b>
<b>INSURANCE BUDGET</b>				
<b>INSURANCE TOTAL</b>	<b>3,272,894</b>	<b>3,216,912</b>	<b>3,668,953</b>	<b>3,561,363</b>
<b>POLICE BUDGET</b>				
42101 Police Operations	4,695,197	4,615,832	4,912,902	5,024,825
42104 Police Communications	1,133,528	1,033,802	1,157,289	1,153,834
<b>POLICE TOTAL</b>	<b>5,828,725</b>	<b>5,649,633</b>	<b>6,070,191</b>	<b>6,178,659</b>
<b>FIRE BUDGET</b>				
42201 Fire Operations	3,933,566	3,875,780	4,120,456	4,253,518
42102 Emergency Management	10,082	6,037	10,082	6,895
<b>FIRE TOTAL</b>	<b>3,943,648</b>	<b>3,881,817</b>	<b>4,130,538</b>	<b>4,260,413</b>
<b>PUBLIC WORKS BUDGET</b>				
41950 Cemetery Operations	180,948	178,500	181,553	210,075
43111 Public Works-Highway	3,661,813	3,660,773	3,738,883	3,752,443
43190 Fleet	730,618	754,908	733,887	742,745
43230 Solid Waste Operations	1,608,049	1,548,356	1,627,374	1,724,244
<b>PUBLIC WORKS TOTAL</b>	<b>6,181,428</b>	<b>6,142,538</b>	<b>6,281,697</b>	<b>6,429,507</b>
<b>PARKS AND REC BUDGET</b>				
<b>PARKS AND REC TOTAL</b>	<b>637,443</b>	<b>625,972</b>	<b>640,040</b>	<b>634,412</b>
<b>LIBRARY BUDGET</b>				
<b>LIBRARY TOTAL</b>	<b>973,341</b>	<b>961,785</b>	<b>965,061</b>	<b>980,528</b>
<b>DEBT SERVICE BUDGET</b>				
<b>DEBT SERVICE TOTAL</b>	<b>199,579</b>	<b>199,577</b>	<b>194,307</b>	<b>194,307</b>
<b>CIP BUDGET</b>				
Mach, Veh & Equip	282,500	273,420	197,000	631,000
Buildings	40,000	20,000	20,000	33,000
Imp Other Than Bldg	1,389,000	1,384,711	1,150,000	1,150,000
<b>CIP TOTAL</b>	<b>1,711,500</b>	<b>1,678,131</b>	<b>1,367,000</b>	<b>1,814,000</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>26,133,866</b>	<b>25,559,392</b>	<b>26,648,427</b>	<b>27,519,425</b>

**Cost Drivers cont.**

- Increases in Capital Investments (CIP) + \$392,000 / + 27.6%
- Increased cost of 3 PD Cruisers;
- Paving at Library parking lot;
- DPW replacements of F550 dump truck and solid waste truck & roll-off trailer.

**What is Included in Default Budget?**

- Contractual wage increases for 3 Union CBAs previously approved by voters.
  - Patrol Officers (2024-2026)
  - Police Dispatchers/Clerks (2024-2026)
  - Professional Firefighters (2025-2027)
- Funded positions from the approved 2025 budget.
- Budget Committee reduced one vacant full-time position at Town Hall.
- Non-Union wages at 2025 levels.

**This budget will be predicated by estimated revenues in the amount of \$7,362,236.**

Explanation continues on next page.

**ARTICLE 9 OPERATING BUDGET EXPLANATION (continued):**

- The amount of Municipal Taxes to be collected in the fall is equal to the appropriations approved at Town Meeting, less revenues to the GENERAL Fund.

2026 TOWN BUDGET SUMMARY – ESTIMATED REVENUES				
	2025		2026	
	Adopted	YTD (12/31/25) Unaudited	Projected Revenues Default	Projected Revenues Proposed
<b>OPERATING BUDGET REVENUES</b>				
Town Hall	6,418,086	6,774,409	6,515,086	6,515,086
Police	99,000	61,420	73,500	73,500
Fire	29,000	30,960	29,000	29,000
Public Works	693,500	748,886	724,650	724,650
Parks & Rec	18,000	14,300	18,000	18,000
Library	2,000	1,332	2,000	2,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>7,259,586</b>	<b>7,631,306</b>	<b>7,362,236</b>	<b>7,362,236</b>

- As part of the Budget Process the Town estimates the amount of revenue the GENERAL Fund will receive in 2026.
- Prior to the tax rate setting in the fall, the Town revises those estimates based on actual revenues received (January – September) and estimated revenues remaining (October – December).
- Estimated Tax Rates and Estimated Tax Impacts presented are based on projected local revenues and \$2.2M in projected shared revenues from the State of NH.**
- The estimated revenues do not include Use of Fund Balance to Reduce Taxes by the Goffstown Select Board. The Select Board makes this determination during Tax Rate Setting in the fall, in consideration of the Town’s financial position and in accordance with the Select Board’s Fund Balance Policy (available online at: <https://www.goffstownnh.gov/379/Policies>).

**Default Budget**

**Estimated Tax Rate & Tax Impact**

- The estimated tax rate impact of the Default Budget is an increase of **15 cents**.
- The estimated increase to the 2026 municipal portion of the tax bill for the Default Budget on a median single-family residence valued at \$416,600 is **\$62.49**.

**Budget Committees Proposed Budget**

**Estimated Tax Rate & Tax Impact**

- The estimated tax rate impact of the Budget Committee’s proposed Operating Budget is an increase of **46 cents**.
- The estimated increase to the 2026 municipal portion of the tax bill for the Budget Committee’s proposed Operating Budget for a median single-family residence valued at \$416,600 is **\$191.64**.

NH DRA Budget Forms and Budget Detail information are available on the Town’s Website at: <https://www.goffstownnh.gov/325/Elections>.

**ARTICLE 10**

**SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND**

Shall the Town of Goffstown vote to raise and appropriate as a Sewer Enterprise Fund operating budget, 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 \$2,225,081?

Should this article be defeated, the default budget for the Sewer Enterprise Fund shall be \$2,233,087, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Goffstown, or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

*Recommended by the Sewer Commissioners 3-0-0.*

*Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0-0.*

**EXPLANATION:**

- The Sewer Fund operates as an Enterprise Fund, completely supported by fees paid by customers connected to the sewer system. There are 2,175 sewer accounts billed twice a year.
- The Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget has no tax impact**
- Highlights of the 2026 SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGET are:
  - Monthly costs from the Manchester Regional Sewer Treatment Facility for both treatment and the capital improvements are slightly increasing; however, the annual use fee collected from customers, and the “connection fee” for new customers, together with Sewer reserve funds, can absorb this increase in the short term without raising these two fees in 2026.
  - The Sewer Department continues to be focused on capital improvements of the installed Goffstown collection system — i.e., the system of underground pipes and pumps conveying the sewage to Manchester. A significant length of the interior surface and alignment of the pipes are videotaped each year to detect developing problems so to allow planned reconstruction of critical pipe sections in a cost-efficient manner.

**ARTICLE 11**

**3-Year DPW Teamsters CBA**

Shall the Town vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between Select Board and the Public Works, Teamsters, Local 603 of NH which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2026	\$47,020
2027	\$65,721
2028	\$79,931

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$47,020 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels? *(This appropriation is in addition to Article 9).*

*Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.*

*Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0-0.*

**EXPLANATION:**

- This is a 3-year contract that covers 24 full-time positions at the Public Works Department.
- Objectives: Maintain equitable wages/benefits with a focus on retention. Targeted the 50th percentile of southern NH communities and NH DOT for 2026 wage adjustments.
- 2.5% matrix adjustment in 3rd year of contract.
- New/increased differential for CDL-A license and solid waste weighmaster certification.
- Changes to sick and family leave; removal of sick bank; reduction in Town's contribution to Health Savings Account for high-deductible health plan.

BALLOT COST CALCULATION	Increases in 2026	Increases in 2027	Increases in 2028
<b>Wage Adjustment</b> (includes FICA, Medicare, NHRS)	\$47,020	\$61,221	\$79,931
<b>Insurance Opt Out</b> (includes FICA, Medicare)	\$5,083	-	-
<b>CBA Article 16 - Uniform Increase</b>	\$4,500	\$4,500	-
<b>Ballot Cost:</b> (increase over prior year)	<b>\$47,020</b>	<b>\$65,721</b>	<b>\$79,931</b>

- The Estimated tax rate impact in 2026 is **2 cents**.
- The Estimated increase to the 2026 municipal portion of the tax bill for a median single-family residence (\$416,600) = **\$8.33**.

**ARTICLE 12**

**Additional Road Plan Funds from Fund Balance**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate an additional \$450,000 for Goffstown's Road Improvement Program? *(This appropriation is in addition to Article 9).*

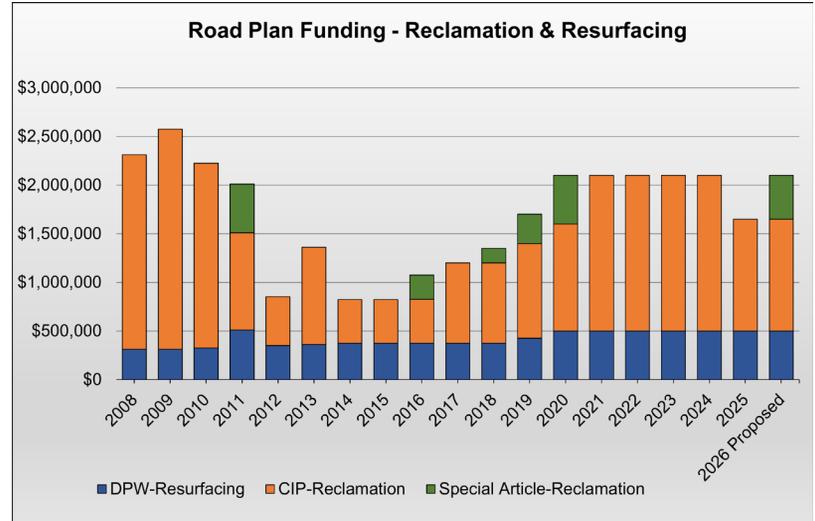
*This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No new amount to be raised by taxation.*

*Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.*

*Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-3-1.*

**EXPLANATION:**

- This article proposes adding an additional \$450,000 to the Road Plan budget in the operating budget in 2026; the proposed budget has \$500,000 in Resurfacing (under DPW) and \$1,150,000 for Reclamation (under CIP).
- This sum will be raised from unassigned fund balance. No NEW amount to be raised by taxation.
- Passage of this article would return road plan funding to 2020-2024 levels.



- The annual funding of the Road Plan was reduced by more than 50% in 2012. From 2012 – 2020 the Town incrementally increased funding to the Road Plan.
- This has an impact on how much road work the Town can do each year, as our purchasing power has decreased from 2008 to today. The cost to resurface and reclaim public roads has greatly increased over the past 10 years.

Average Annual Difference Over Time			
Item Group	10 Years	3 Years	1 Year
Roadway Excavation	23%	42%	89%
Select Materials	11%	18%	26%
Hot Mix Asphalt	5%	5%	3%

Source: Construction Cost Index, NH DOT, Second Half - 2025 (published 01/01/2026)  
[www.dot.nh.gov/new-hampshire-construction-cost-index](http://www.dot.nh.gov/new-hampshire-construction-cost-index)

- If approved, this \$450,000 will not be included in the 2027 Default Budget.

## EXPLANATION OF UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE

**QUESTION.** What is “Unassigned Fund Balance”?

**ANSWER.** This is a difficult term to explain as this term does not exist in the private sector nor does it exist in personal finances. Fund balance, in general, is a balance sheet account that represents the difference between a municipality’s assets and liabilities, as of a certain point in time. It is not cash in the bank.

Unassigned fund balance is impacted when a municipality expends less than what was appropriated and receives more revenue than was budgeted. For example, sometimes favorable weather conditions allow under expenditures on sand, salt, and overtime. Also, a competitive bid process may lead to more favorable quotes than budgeted. Additionally, the Town must submit revised revenues projections to the State each September, 4 months before the end of the year. Unplanned revenue or more revenue than projected also impacts unassigned fund balance.

In 2025 the Town spent 98% of its appropriation, which adds approximately \$500,000 to unassigned fund balance. Additionally, the Town received \$260,000 additional revenue above projections submitted to the State in September, which will be added to unassigned fund balance.

(NOTE: 2025 expenditures and revenues, and unassigned fund balance at year end are projections. Final figures will be determined by Town Finance and independent auditors.)

**QUESTION.** Why are towns authorized to have unassigned fund balance?

**ANSWER.** Towns are authorized to have unassigned fund balance because towns are responsible for collecting property taxes not only for town operations, but also for school and county operations. Towns have the responsibility to pay out the approved Tax Effort billed for the School and County, regardless of the level of tax collections. Unpaid 2025 Taxes & Prior Year Tax Liens = \$1.8 Million (12/31/25, unaudited).

Unassigned fund balance assists the Town in managing cash flow, financing expenditures from the beginning of the year until property taxes are collected in July and in December. Responsible long-term financial planning requires an adequate level of unassigned fund balance for unforeseen expenses, to allow the Select Board flexibility to stabilize the tax rate (done in 2021 and 2022), and to attain favorable bond rating.

**QUESTION.** What are the processes to use unassigned fund balance?

**ANSWER.** There are three (3) ways to access unassigned fund balance:

1. At tax rate setting each fall the Select Board can use fund balance to stabilize the town side of the tax rate. The Select Board used \$1,000,000 to reduce taxes in 2021 and \$750,000 to reduce taxes in 2022.
2. If an emergency occurs during the year which requires overspending the adopted budget, then there is a legal process involving the Budget Committee and the Department of Revenue Administration to allow the Select Board to use unassigned fund balance for an emergency.
3. A town can choose to fund purchases with fund balance **upon voter approval at the Annual Town Meeting.**

**QUESTION.** What is an “adequate level” for unassigned fund balance and what is Goffstown’s unassigned fund balance?

**ANSWER.** The NH Department of Revenue Administration (NH DRA) recommends a range of 5% - 17% of the total general fund operating expenditures.

In NH, the “general fund operating expenditures” is calculated by adding the Town’s general fund operating appropriations, the state education tax amount, the local school net tax commitment, and the county appropriation.

In 2025 the “general fund operating expenditures” for the Town, School, and County was \$64,553,767.

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recommends no less than two (2) months of the total “general fund operating expenditures” (16.7%). Based on the 2025 Tax Rate calculations provided by the NHDRA, two (2) months of “general fund operating expenditures” equals \$10.8 Million.

The Town retained Unassigned Fund Balance of \$8,902,550 (13.79% of “general fund operating expenses”) at 2025 Tax Rate Setting (10/21/25).

The Town’s Fund Balance Policy is available online at: [www.GoffstownNH.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1459/Fund-Balance-Policy-PDF](http://www.GoffstownNH.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1459/Fund-Balance-Policy-PDF)

**QUESTION.** How does Goffstown plan to use unassigned fund balance in 2026?

**ANSWER.** In 2026 the Select Board is asking the voters to approve \$850,000 from unassigned fund balance.

- \$450,000 for Road Plan funding; returning road plan funding to 2020-2024 levels (Article 12).
- \$350,000 deposit into the Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund (Article 13).
- \$50,000 deposit into Goffstown Public Library Capital Reserve Fund (Article 14).

**ARTICLE 13**

**Deposit into Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund from Fund Balance**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$350,000 to be added to the Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund previously established in 2008? *(This appropriation is in addition to Article 9). This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No new amount to be raised by taxation.*

*Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.*

*Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-3-1.*

**EXPLANATION:**

- Article 13 seeks to appropriate \$350,000 to deposit into the Fire Apparatus CRF.
- This sum will be raised from unassigned fund balance. No NEW amount to be raised by taxation.
- The Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund was established at Town Meeting 2008 for the purpose of purchasing Fire Apparatus, while avoiding spikes in tax rate. The Select Board is the agent for this fund.
- Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund Balance (12/31/25) is \$1,162,390.75.
- Fire Department presents a vehicle replacement matrix to the CIP Committee each year.
- There are three (3) major fire apparatus scheduled for replacement in the next 7 years.
  - 2026 replacement of 2005 ENGINE 3 (\$1.1 M)
  - 2030 replacement of 2010 TOWER 1 (\$2.1 M)
  - 2032 replacement of 2012 TANKER 1 (\$1.3 M)

**ARTICLE 14**

**Establish Goffstown Public Library Capital Reserve Fund, Name Agents, and Deposit from Fund Balance**

Shall the Town vote to establish a Goffstown Public Library Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for building projects and matching grant funds and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be placed in this fund and further to name the Library Board of Trustees as agents to expend from said fund? *(This appropriation is in addition to Article 9). This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No new amount to be raised by taxation.*

*Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.*

*Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-4-1.*

**EXPLANATION:**

- Article 14 seeks to establish a Goffstown Public Library Capital Reserve Fund (CRF).
- The purpose of the Fund will be for building projects and matching grant funds.
- If approved, the Library Board of Trustees will be the agents to expend from the Fund.
- Article 14 seeks to appropriate \$50,000 to deposit into the Goffstown Public Library Capital Reserve Fund. This sum will be raised from unassigned fund balance. No NEW amount to be raised by taxation. (Fund Balance Explanation on pgs. 18-19)
- This CRF could be used for local match on future grant applications, showing community support and improving chances of successful grant funding. In 2025 the Goffstown Public Library was awarded a \$19,272 LCHIP Grant to support the library's historic window restoration project (50% grant / 50% local match).
- The Library Board of Trustees maintain a prioritized list of projects at [www.GoffstownLibrary.com](http://www.GoffstownLibrary.com).

**CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS (NH RSA 35)**

- Capital Reserve Funds are established by the voters at Town Meeting as a means to finance capital projects. A household equivalent would be a savings accounts for a future purchase.
- The Town currently has 4 Capital Reserve Funds:
- Once established, public funds can only be deposited into the Capital Reserve Fund by voters at Town Meeting.
- Funds can be disbursed ("spent") based on a vote at town meeting, or by a majority vote of the agents.
- Capital Reserve Funds are held by the Trustees of the Trust Funds and accumulate any interest earned.

CRF	AGENTS	PURPOSE	BALANCE (12/31/25)
Conservation CRF (2003)	Select Board	acquisition of land, easements, and/or land rights for conservation purposes	\$226,258
Grasmere Town Hall (2005)	Select Board & Historic District Commission	restoring the Grasmere Town Hall	\$438,288
Fire Apparatus CRF (2008)	Select Board	Fire Apparatus	\$1,162,391
Land Acquisition CRF (2017)	Select Board	Land Acquisition	\$426.962

**ARTICLE 15**  
**Purchase of Curbside Solid Waste Packer**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$430,000 for the purpose of purchasing a curbside solid waste packer?  
*(This appropriation is in addition to the Operating Budget Article).*

*Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.*  
*Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-3-1.*

**EXPLANATION:**

- Article 15 asks the voters to appropriate funds to purchase a curbside solid waste packer to replace 2012 curbside packer truck.
- This replacement vehicle was deferred in 2024 (default budget) and in 2025 (Budget Committee removed from proposed budget).
- Two (2) front-line packers operate 40 hours per week, 52 weeks per year, each collecting 1,000-1,200 barrels per day.
  - 12.4 million pounds (6,200 tons)/yr of trash
  - 4.2 million pounds (2,100 tons)/yr of recycling
- This appropriation would come from new taxation and replace the 2012 Curbside Packer Truck. There is an approximate 2-year lead time from order to delivery.
- Due to the workload, age, and complexity of the machinery, DPW often has 1 of the 2 trucks out of service, requiring the use of a backup truck.
- The Estimated tax rate impact in 2026 is an increase of **16 cents**.
- The Estimated increase to the 2026 municipal portion of the tax bill for a median single-family residence valued at \$416,600 is **\$66.66**.

Packer Unit #	Purchase Year	Planned Replacement Year	Age at Replacement	Total Hours	2024 Hours	2025 Hours	Mileage	Down Time (hrs)	Cumulative Repair Costs
375	2012	2026	14	17,583	923	775	150,800	N/A (backup)	\$310,478
374	2015	2030	15	14,998	427	357	121,927	N/A (backup)	\$202,460
371	2019	2034	15	8,423	1,464	1,223	97,525	1,839 '22-'25	\$97,097
372	2024	2038	14	3,689	1,454	1,509	31,933	511 '24-'25	\$27,593

**ARTICLE 16**  
**Select Board Stipends**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$29,323 for the purpose of funding monthly stipends for the members of the Select Board? *(This appropriation is in addition to the Operating Budget Article).*

*Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.*  
*Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-1-1.*

**EXPLANATION:**

- Article 16 asks the voters to appropriate funds for Select Board stipends (12-month stipend, includes FICA and Medicare).
- In addition to Select Board meetings, members serve on other town Boards/Committees, review payroll and all vendors payments weekly, participate in CBA negotiations, work at Town and State elections, and other duties as mandated by State law.
- If approved by voters, these funds could not be used for any other purpose. Any remaining funds due to individual Board members refusing the stipend will lapse to fund balance.
- The Estimated tax rate impact in 2026 is an increase of **1 cent**.
- The Estimated increase to the 2026 municipal portion of the tax bill for a median single-family residence valued at \$416,600 is **\$4.17**.

**ARTICLE 17**  
**Modification of Tax Credit for Service Connected Total Disability**

Shall the Town vote to modify the provisions of RSA 72:35 for a Tax Credit for Service Connected Total Disability of \$3,000 per year? If adopted and approved, this article shall take effect for the 2026 property tax year.

If this article is not adopted, the Service Connected Total Disability Tax Credit will remain at \$2,400 per year and the veterans who qualify will lose the \$600 veteran credit.

*Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.*

**EXPLANATION:**

- Article 17 asks the voters to increase Tax Credit for Service Connected Total Disability from \$2,400 to \$3,000 due to a change in NH State law in 2025 that would result in a reduction of the tax credit received by these property owners.
- Prior to passage of House Bill 99, a veteran who qualified for the veteran credit (\$600) and the veteran's tax credit for service-connected disability (\$2,400) could get both for a total credit of \$3,000; as amended by HB 99, the veteran credit and the veteran's tax credit for service-connected disability can no longer be combined.
- The Select Board proposed this change to provide veterans with total and permanent service-connected disability the same level of total credit (\$3,000) as 2025.

**ARTICLE 18  
Petition Article**

**To Raise the Elderly Income Limit to Qualify for an Elderly Exemption**

Shall the Town vote to raise the elderly income limit allowable under RSA 72:39-a to qualify for an elderly tax exemption? The current limit is \$42,500 if single, or if married, a combined income of not more than \$60,000 (including Social Security). Passage of the article will raise the income limit to \$47,000 if single, or, if married, a combined income of not more than \$66,000.

The income Limit has been at the existing level since 2023. Inflation into 2026 is about 10% and that is reflected in the revised numbers above.

*Submitted by petition.*

*Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.*

**EXPLANATION:**

- Article 18 is a Citizen Submitted Petition Warrant Article (RSA 39:3).
- The Supervisors of the Checklist certified 59 registered voters signed the petition.
- The Goffstown Select Board voted 5-0-0 to Recommend Article 18.

**ARTICLE 19  
Petition Article  
Fund Balance Limitation**

Shall the Town vote to adopt the following binding limitation on the total fund balance of the Town of Goffstown?

The combined total of the Town's assigned and unassigned fund balance shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the prior fiscal year's net assessed appropriations as defined under RSA 32.

Any amount in excess of this 10% limit shall automatically be applied to reduce the Town's tax rate for the following fiscal year and shall not be retained for any other purpose.

This provision shall remain in effect unless and until amended or rescinded by a future vote of the legislative body. No vote of the Select Board, nor any local policy or administrative action, may supersede or nullify this limitation.

*Submitted by petition.*

*Not Recommended by the Select Board 4-1-0.*

**EXPLANATION:**

- Article 19 is a Citizen Submitted Petition Warrant Article (RSA 39:3).
- The Supervisors of the Checklist certified 42 registered voters signed the petition.
- The Goffstown Select Board voted 4-1-0 to Not Recommend Article 19.

**ARTICLE 20  
Petition Article**

**Restrict Commercialization and Retail Sales of Non regulated Intoxicating Substances**

Shall the Town vote to consider restricting retail sales of non regulated and intoxicating substances?

The governing body shall consider prohibiting to a person under the age of 21 the sale, gifting, delivery or public display for sale the following substances, which as intoxicants are unregulated or illegal: Kratom products containing mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine; Hallucinogenic plants and fungi; nitrous oxide and alkyl nitrates.

This warrant article will have no tax impact.

*Submitted by petition.*

*Not Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.*

**EXPLANATION:**

- Article 20 is a Citizen Submitted Petition Warrant Article (RSA 39:3).
- The Supervisors of the Checklist certified 32 registered voters signed the petition.
- The Goffstown Select Board voted 5-0-0 to Not Recommend Article 20.

**ARTICLE 21  
Petition Article  
Restrict Sales of Intoxicating Cannabis and Hemp Based Products**

Shall the Town vote to consider restricting the sales of any non-regulated and intoxicating cannabis or hemp based products?

The governing body shall consider prohibiting the sale, delivery or public display for sale of products containing THC (natural or synthetic tetrahydrocannabinol) which appear in any formulation, including delta-8 THC, delta-9 THC and any other THC isomer variant, to a person under the age of 21.

This warrant article will have no tax impact.

*Submitted by petition.*

*Not Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.*

**EXPLANATION:**

- Article 21 is a Citizen Submitted Petition Warrant Article (RSA 39:3).
- The Supervisors of the Checklist certified 34 registered voters signed the petition.
- The Goffstown Select Board voted 5-0-0 to Not Recommend Article 21.

For more detailed budget information, NHDRA budget forms, and information about the Town Articles, visit the Town's Election website at: [www.GoffstownNH.gov/325/Elections](http://www.GoffstownNH.gov/325/Elections)

# 2026 SCHOOL DISTRICT ARTICLES

## ARTICLE 1 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

### SCHOOL BOARD

*For 3 Years      Vote for not more than Three*

- |                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Donna Pinard    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Brian Templeton | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Adam Barriere   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vanessa Hayes   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Daniel MacInnis | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Write In: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Write In: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Write In: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## ARTICLE 2 Operating Budget

The average district cost-per-pupil for the preceding year, calculated in accordance with RSA 189:75,I(a), is \$17,811 (state average is \$22,699). ELA Proficiency: 58% (state average 55%); Math Proficiency: 43% (state average 42%); Science Proficiency: 39% (state average 38%).

Shall the Goffstown 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 the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$58,545,759? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$58,208,837 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Goffstown School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required).

*The School Board Voted 8-0-0 to Recommend  
The Budget Committee Voted 12-1-0 to Recommend*

### EXPLANATION:

The Operating Budget is comprised of three major funds: ***The Food Service and Special Revenue Funds are not raised through taxation.***  
1) General Fund, 2) Food Service Fund, and 3) Special Revenue (Grants) Fund.

Fund	FY 25/26	FY 26/27 Default	FY 26/27 Proposed	Difference FY 26/27 Proposed vs FY 26/27 Default
<b>General Fund</b> (includes a \$300,000 CRF deposit in 2025-2026)	\$54,689,768	\$55,361,404	\$55,698,326	\$336,922
<b>Food Service</b> (not raised thru taxes)	\$1,462,716	\$1,547,433	\$1,547,433	\$0
<b>Special Revenue</b> (not raised thru taxes)	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$57,452,484</b>	<b>\$58,208,837</b>	<b>\$58,545,759</b>	<b>\$336,922</b>

The proposed 2026-2027 Goffstown School District Operating Budget reflects an increase of \$1,008,558 (1.84%) over the previous year. This adjustment is attributed to several key factors: 1) increased wage and benefit expenses resulting from previously voter-approved support staff contracts, 2) higher health and dental insurance premiums, 3) a reduction in the state's contribution towards technical high school costs (MST), thereby raising costs for local taxpayers, 4) rising information technology expenditures and the necessity to update obsolete equipment, 5) greater expenses related to maintenance and repairs of school buildings, 6) an increase in EMC municipal lease payments (the first payment made this year was offset by incentives and rebates), and 7) higher costs for regular education school transportation. Notably, the proposed budget does not include salary increases for members of the Goffstown Education Association (GEA), such as teachers, speech therapists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists, as a new four-year agreement will be addressed through warrant article #3.

Between 2015 and 2025, statewide student enrollment declined by 11.41%. In contrast, Goffstown schools experienced only a 1.43% decrease during the same period. Looking ahead, enrollment is anticipated to remain relatively stable, though new residential developments may result in modest annual increases. As the exact impact of new housing on specific grade levels remains uncertain, the district will continue to closely monitor class sizes and implement appropriate measures as necessary.

The operating budget continues to focus on programs that allow the District to meet the needs of each child in a cost effective and appropriate manner, in addition to maintaining current programming, teaching and learning, safety, special education, and facilities projects. The proposed operating budget supports the operations at each of the District's five schools.

Goffstown School District continues to provide a high-quality education (GHS was ranked #14 out of 98 high schools in NH by U.S. News and World Report) to our students at a cost that is thousands of dollars less than the State of New Hampshire's per student average. During 2024 and 2025,

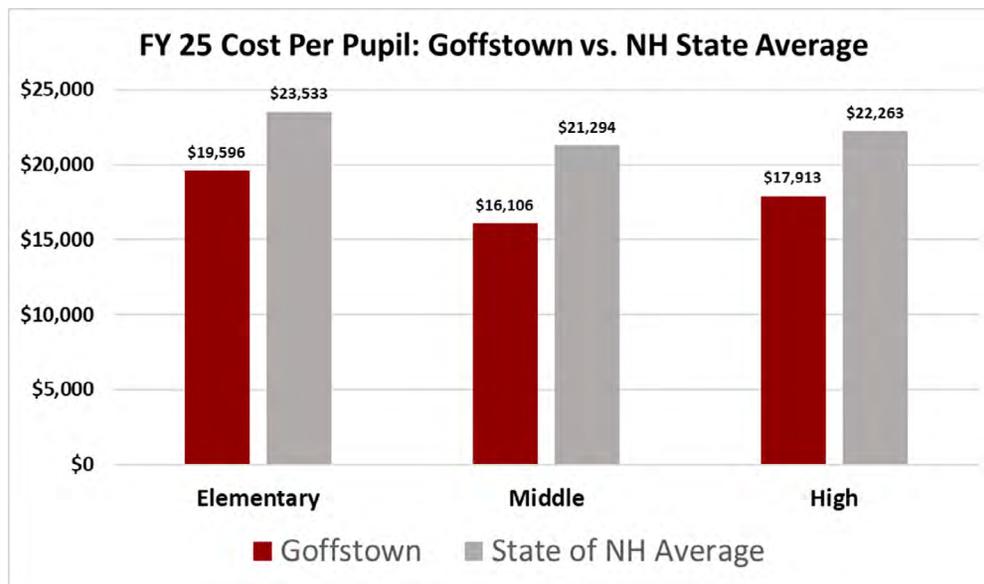
Goffstown recorded the lowest per-pupil costs among all K-12 school districts in New Hampshire. (Please see below cost per pupil data from the NH Department of Education) [www.education.nh.gov/who-we-are/division-of-educator-and-analytic-resources/bureau-of-education-statistics/financial-reports](http://www.education.nh.gov/who-we-are/division-of-educator-and-analytic-resources/bureau-of-education-statistics/financial-reports)

**Goffstown has the Lowest Cost Per Pupil in New Hampshire for K-12 School Districts FY25 (and FY24)**

NH State Average Cost Per Pupil  
\$22,699.85

Goffstown Cost Per Pupil  
\$17,811.49

Goffstown spends 22% less than the State of NH Average, which results in \$4,888.36 less per pupil



It is important to recognize that the Goffstown School District offsets a large portion of its operating budget through revenues from local, state, and federal sources. Local revenues are derived mostly from tuition received from New Boston for their students at MVMS and GHS, as well as food service revenues.

State revenue sources are driven largely by the NH State Adequacy Grant and the Statewide Education Property Tax (SWEPT) which have been mostly flat for the last few years.

Finally, federal revenues are grants that Goffstown receives for special education, child nutrition, and Title I-IV programs.

Revenue Source	FY 25-26	FY 26-27 (estimated)
Local (Mostly Tuition)	\$8,813,716	\$9,492,433
State	\$781,771	\$752,275
Federal (Mostly grants)	\$1,830,000	\$1,835,000
Use of Fund Balance (to reduce taxes)	\$2,517,736	\$1,350,000
NH Adequacy	\$8,092,169	\$8,709,378
SWEPT (Statewide Property Tax)	\$3,125,354	\$3,149,560
Other (use of fund balance and revenues from misc. sources)	\$300,000	\$300,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$25,460,746</b>	<b>\$25,588,646</b>

**Default Budget Estimated Tax Rate and Tax Impact**

- Estimated tax rate impact of the 2026-2027 default budget is approximately \$0.28 per thousand.
- Estimated annual increase to the 2026-2027 local school portion of the tax bill for a median single-family residence (\$416,600 valuation) is approximately \$117.

**Budget Committee and School Board Proposed Budget Estimated Tax Rate and Tax Impact**

- Estimated tax rate impact of the 2026-2027 proposed budget is approximately \$0.40 per thousand.
- Estimated annual increase to the 2026-2027 local school portion of the tax bill for a median single-family residence (\$416,600 valuation) is approximately \$167.

**For more information about the proposed 2025-2026 Goffstown School District Budget, Please visit the website at:**

<https://www.goffstown.k12.nh.us>

**ARTICLE 3 - Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement**

Shall the Goffstown School District vote to approve the cost items included in the Goffstown Education Association four-year Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Goffstown School Board and the Goffstown Education Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels?

Year	Estimate Increase
2026-2027	\$1,952,009
2027-2028	\$1,282,654
2028-2029	\$1,097,805
2029-2030	\$1,126,412

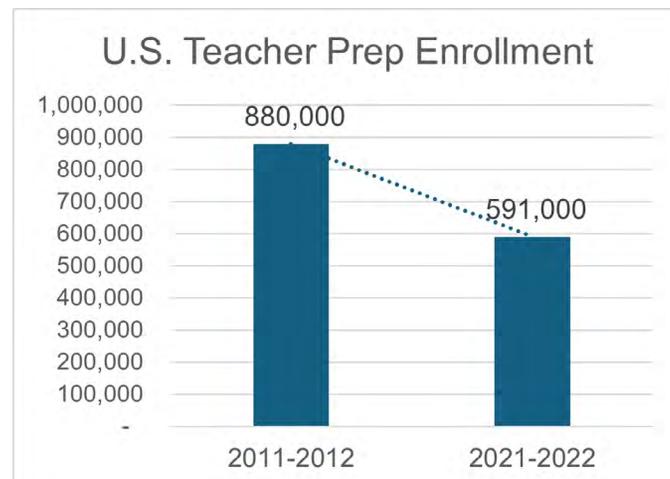
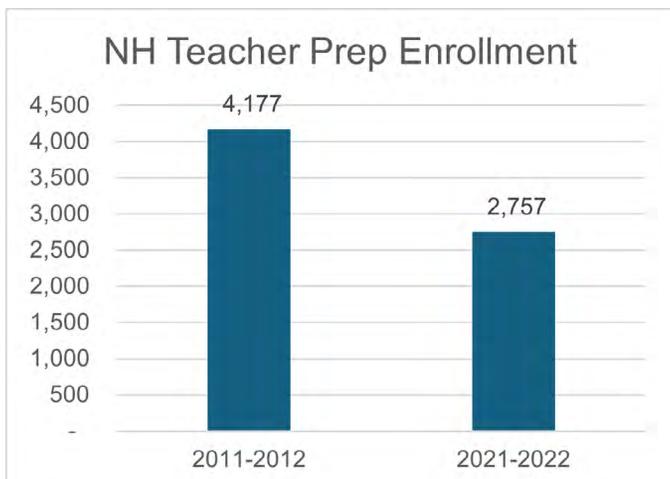
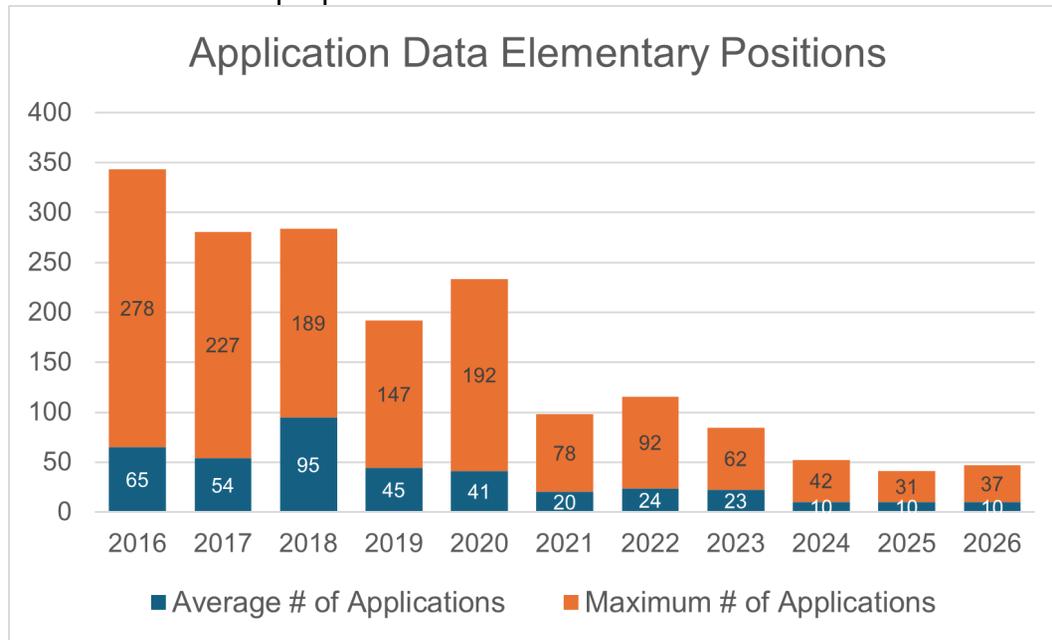
and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,952,009 for the 2027 fiscal year; this amount to be offset by \$59,617 from the Special Federal Revenue Fund and \$280,000 from increased tuition revenue from New Boston School District with the remaining amount of \$1,612,392 to be raised by taxation for the purpose of funding the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels. This appropriation is in addition to Warrant Article #2 the Operating Budget. (Majority vote required).

***The School Board Voted 8-0-0 to Recommend  
The Budget Committee Voted 10-3-0 to Recommend***

**EXPLANATION:**

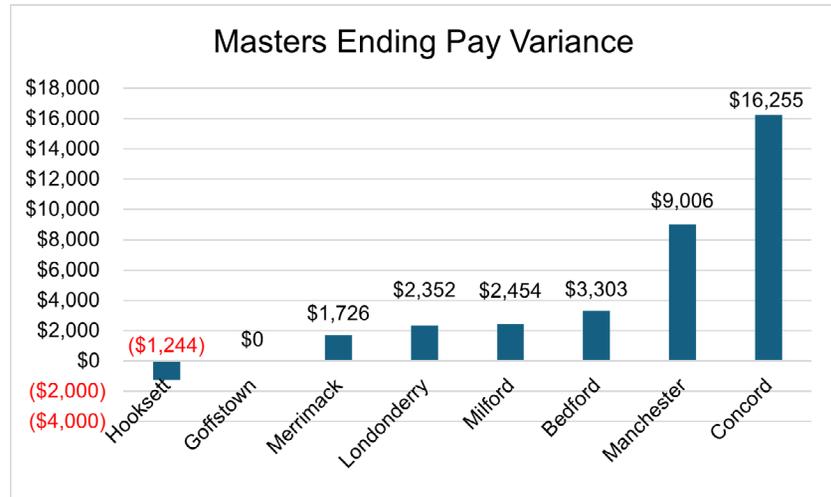
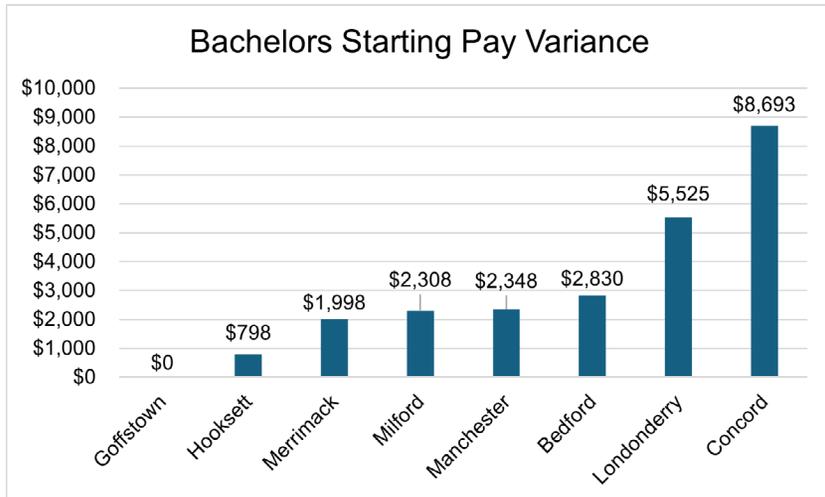
- This article asks voters to approve the cost items associated with the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) reached between the Goffstown Education Association (teachers) and the Goffstown School Board.
- The proposed CBA aims to address current teacher labor market challenges in southern New Hampshire, where competitive wages among neighboring districts are central to attracting and retaining high quality educators and professional staff.
- There is a nationwide shortage of teachers, driven in part by declining enrollment in teacher preparation

- programs. Several programs at New Hampshire colleges and universities have closed due to low enrollment, resulting in fewer individuals entering the teaching profession. This has created significant challenges in recruiting, hiring, and retaining qualified staff. Since the pandemic, the number of applications for open positions has dropped sharply, contributing to an increasingly competitive market for educators.
- Below are charts showing the sharp decline in the number of elementary school teacher applications and the decline in teacher preparation program enrollments.



- The charts below demonstrate the current teacher labor market conditions of neighboring towns for both entry level and experienced teachers, and the variance of starting pay for teachers with a bachelor's degree

(Bachelors Starting Pay Variance) and ending pay for teachers with a master's degree (Masters Ending Pay Variance).



- Major highlights of the agreement are as follows:
  - The agreement provides for salary increases during the four-year agreement.
  - The salary grid will be adjusted to accomplish the following:
    - Increase teacher starting wage to \$50,000.
    - Increase wages to the 50th percentile of benchmark towns.
- From the chart below, please note current and proposed minimum and maximum salaries. The first-year increase in the proposed CBA will align Goffstown teachers with the 50th Percentile of comparable towns listed below for both minimum starting and maximum ending salaries:

Current <b>Minimum Salaries</b> (Comparable Towns -50th Percentile vs. Goffstown)			
		Bachelors (BA)	Masters (MA)
		Minimum	Minimum
<b>Current</b>	Current 25-26 Comparable Towns- 50th Percentile	\$ 46,643	\$ 51,431
	Current 25-26 Goffstown	\$ 44,002	\$ 49,657
	Current 25-26 Difference	\$ (2,641)	\$ (1,774)
	Current 25-26 Difference %	-6.00%	-3.57%
Comparing <b>Minimum Salaries</b> vs. Proposed Goffstown 26-27 CBA			
<b>Proposed</b>	Comparable Towns- 50th Percentile <b>26-27</b>	\$ 50,467	\$ 54,470
	<b>Goffstown Proposed 26-27 CBA</b>	\$ 50,186	\$ 56,635
	Difference *	\$ (281)	\$ 2,165
	% Difference *	-0.56%	3.82%

Current <b>Maximum Salaries</b> (Comparable Towns -50th Percentile vs. Goffstown)			
		Bachelors (BA)	Masters (MA)
		Maximum	Maximum
<b>Current</b>	Current 25-26 Comparable Towns- 50th Percentile	\$ 74,355	\$ 84,070
	Current 25-26 Goffstown	\$ 72,729	\$ 82,074
	Current 25-26 Difference	\$ (1,626)	\$ (1,996)
	Current 25-26 Difference %	-2.24%	-2.43%
Comparing <b>Maximum Salaries</b> vs. Proposed Goffstown 26-27 CBA			
<b>Proposed</b>	Comparable Towns- 50th Percentile <b>26-27</b>	\$ 76,333	\$ 86,500
	<b>Goffstown Proposed 26-27 CBA</b>	\$ 76,365	\$ 86,178
	Difference *	\$ 32	\$ (322)
	% Difference *	0.04%	-0.37%

**Comparable towns for 50th Percentile include:**  
 Amherst, Bedford, Bow, Concord, Contoocook Valley, Dunbarton, Hollis/Brookline, Hooksett, Hudson, John Stark, Litchfield, Londonderry, Manchester, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, New Boston and Weare

- In addition to regular wages, those receiving co-curricular stipends will see an increase of 5%, 3%, 3% and 3% for each respective year of the agreement. These stipends have not been increased since July of 2021.
- There is also additional \$100,000 for professional development in year two of the agreement that is focused on increasing the per course cost per employee reimbursement and the workshop and conference per employee reimbursement.

#### **ARTICLE 4 - Special Election**

Shall the Goffstown School District, if article #3, (GEA Collective Bargaining Agreement) is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address article #3 cost items only? (Majority vote required)

*The School Board Voted 8-0-0 to Recommend*

##### **EXPLANATION:**

- Warrant Article #4 is contingent upon the passing of Warrant Article #3 (GEA Collective Bargaining Agreement). Warrant Article #4 will not need to be implemented if Warrant Article #3 passes, as the new four-year GEA Collective Bargaining Agreement would go into effect July 1, 2026. If Warrant Article #3 fails, passing Warrant Article #4 would allow for new negotiations between the School Board and the GEA. If a new proposed agreement occurs, the town's registered voters would have an opportunity to vote on the new proposed agreement.
- The negotiations would solely focus on cost items only and would be expedited in nature to allow for a May or June of 2026 vote. This voting day would occur at Goffstown High School with an expected cost of between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

#### **ARTICLE 5**

##### **Deposit into School Facilities Capital Reserve Fund (CRF)**

Shall the Goffstown School District vote to raise and appropriate up to \$300,000 for deposit into the existing Facilities Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2019) with this sum to come from the June 30, 2026, unassigned fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1, 2026? No new amount to be raised from taxation. (Majority vote required.)

*The School Board Voted 8-1-0 to Recommend*

*The Budget Committee Voted 9-3-1 to Recommend*

##### **EXPLANATION:**

- This article asks voters to deposit \$300,000 into the School District's existing Capital Reserve Fund (CRF). This CRF was created by the voters seven years ago and serves to provide funds to replace existing capital assets within the School District. The requested \$300,000 comes from unassigned funds (not from new taxation) available at the end of this fiscal year on June 30, 2026.
- A Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) is a planning and financing tool used by the Town of Goffstown, as well as numerous towns and school districts in New Hampshire. The Goffstown School District uses the Town's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) process for school-related capital projects. There are currently over 70 projects contained in the school district's CIP matrix. (The School District's CIP matrix is located on the Goffstown School District and Town website.)
- The purpose of the CRF is to cover the replacement of existing capital assets such as roofs, mechanical systems, windows, flooring, parking lots/roadways, and other items that already exist within our school infrastructure. This fund does not support any new facilities or additions. Projects that have been accomplished through funding by the School Facilities CRF include (but not limited to): GHS theater renovations, tractor replacement, GHS fire panel replacement, MVMS HVAC roof top unit replacement, phone system replacement, MVMS core switches replacement (offset by eRate matching grant), MVMS cistern project work, and GHS softball field scoreboard replacement. Each year, \$50,000 is reserved for future replacement of the GHS turf.
- **The current balance of the School Facilities CRF is approximately \$208,000**, of which \$100,000 is reserved for future turf replacement. The requested \$300,000 comes from unassigned funds (not from new taxation) available at the end of this fiscal year on June 30, 2026. **Should voters approve Article 3, the new CRF balance will be approximately \$508,000.**
- The School District plans to allocate about \$275,000 for the 2026-2027 school year to address safety and Information Technology (IT) needs. This funding will be used to replace several exterior doors and smoke detectors at GHS, upgrade the district firewall that manages internet traffic across all buildings, and replace network switches at GHS.
- An additional \$50,000 would also be added to the reserve for the GHS turf replacement, bringing the total reserved for future turf replacement to \$150,000.

#### **ARTICLE 6**

##### **Open Enrollment School District**

Shall the Goffstown School District vote to adopt the provisions of NH RSA Chapter 194-D and become an open enrollment school district under the terms of the RSA, and to admit 5 students from outside the Goffstown School District into Kindergarten at the Glen Lake School, and to establish that 0 (zero) of the resident student population are eligible to seek enrollment outside of the district?

*The School Board Voted 7-1-0 to Recommend*

##### **EXPLANATION:**

- NH RSA 194-D has allowed NH districts to adopt the provisions of being an Open Enrollment District since 2009. Open Enrollment districts can receive students from other districts and are allowed to charge the sending district 80% of the per pupil cost. This article looks to establish Goffstown School District as an Open Enrollment District and allow up to 5 students from other district to attend Kindergarten at Glen Lake School and allow zero students from Goffstown to attend other Open Enrollment schools in the state of NH. This article would not restrict any Goffstown student from attending any charter school, accessing Educational Freedom Accounts, being Home Schooled, or requesting a change of school assignment under RSA 193:3.
- The main goal of the article is to limit the potential financial expenses to the district while more information about Open Enrollment Districts is learned, litigated in other districts, or changed by state law.



***Town of Goffstown***  
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Goffstown, NH 03045

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