

**TOWN OF NORWICH, VERMONT AND
NORWICH TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARNING OF ANNUAL MEETING, MARCH 1, 2022**

The legal voters of the Town of Norwich, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet in remote fashion, due to the special circumstances surrounding COVID-19, via a ZOOM™ meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82227232909> , or telephonically (US toll-free 1-888-475-4499) using meeting ID: 822 2723 2909 at 7:00 pm on Monday, February 28, 2022, to transact business not requiring a vote by Australian ballot. Voting for Town Officers and for all articles on the Warning will be by Australian ballot. The polls will be open Tuesday, March 1, 2022 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

NOTE: GIVEN THE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING COVID-19, VOTERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO VOTE BY EARLY/ABSENTEE BALLOT. TO OBTAIN A BALLOT, CONTACT THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE (802-649-1419).

This meeting is called to determine if the Town will:

Article 1. Elect a Moderator of the Town and School District meeting for one year.

Article 2. Elect Town and School District Officers for terms starting in 2022.

Article 3. Hear and act on the reports of the Officers of the Town and Town School District.

Article 4. Shall the voters approve a gross spending General Town Budget of \$4,958,865.00, plus state and federal grants and gifts consistent with budgeted programs for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023?

Article 5. Shall the voters eliminate the office of Grand Juror pursuant to 17 VSA §2646?

Article 6. Shall the voters eliminate the office of Town Agent pursuant to 17 VSA §2646?

Article 7. Shall the voters approve the formation of an Unanticipated Expenses and Emergency Reserve Fund (to be governed by the purpose statement provided in the Town Report), initially funded through a transfer of \$750,000 from the FY22 unrestricted fund balance, and to be maintained in subsequent years at a level between 12 and 16 percent of the annual operating budget through: (i) transfer of unexpended monies remaining in the general fund from the prior year's operating budget, as approved by the voters; and/or (ii) allocations in the proposed operating budget as approved by the voters?

Article 8. Shall the voters approve the establishment of an Operational Performance and Development Fund (to be governed by the purpose statement provided in the Town Report), to be initially funded through a transfer of \$110,000 from the FY22 unrestricted fund balance?

Article 9. Shall the voters approve spending up to \$51,000 from the Operational Performance and Development Fund to undertake Police and Public Safety Study?

Article 10: Shall the voters approve spending up to \$50,000 from the Operational Performance and Development Fund to undertake long-range planning for the construction and maintenance of sidewalks, bikeways and trails, to include additional assessment of bike and pedestrian alternatives along Beaver Meadow Road (Main Street to Moore Lane) and linkages to Huntley Meadows?

Article 11. Shall the voters approve the establishment of the Emerald Ash Borer Response Fund (to be governed by the purpose statement provided in the Town Report)?

Article 12. Shall the voters approve the allocation of \$10,000 from FY23 budget to the Emerald Ash Borer Response Fund?

Article 13. Shall the voters approve a transfer of \$1,297.76 from the Recreation Pool Fund to the Emerald Ash Borer Response Fund?

Article 14. Shall the voters approve a transfer \$546.59 from the Long-Term Facility Fund to the Emerald Ash Borer Response Fund?

Article 15 Shall the voters appropriate \$13,514 to Advance Transit to be used to help cover operating costs and providing matching funds for grants for the support of providing public transportation services?

Article 16. Shall the voters appropriate \$20,000 to the Cemetery Commission under 18 VSA §5361 to supplement the interest from the Perpetual Care Trust Fund for maintenance of the Town Cemeteries?

Article 17. Shall the voters appropriate \$4,348 to The Child Care Center of Norwich to be used for income sensitive scholarships to Norwich children?

Article 18. Shall the voters appropriate \$3,000 to Community Access Television, Inc. (CATV) for video recordings of meetings for local government transparency?

Article 19. Shall the voters appropriate \$3,000 to Good Beginnings to be used for the support of programs?

Article 20. Shall the voters appropriate \$1704.50 to the Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation to be used to offer support for new, growing and relocating businesses?

Article 21. Shall the voters appropriate \$2,500 to Headrest to be used for the operation of a crisis 24/7 hotline?

Article 22. Shall the voters appropriate \$1,500 to the Norwich American Legion, to be used for the Legion's Memorial Day observance?

Article 23. Shall the voters appropriate \$8,000 to the Norwich Historical Society and Community Center to support those programs that support the celebration of historic events?

Article 24. Shall the voters appropriate \$3,500 to the Norwich Lions Club to be used to underwrite the fireworks for the Norwich Fair in celebration of the 260th year of the Town's Charter?

Article 25. Shall the voters appropriate \$300,000 to the Norwich Public Library Association, to be used for the operating expenses of the Library?

Article 26. Shall the voters appropriate \$337 to Public Health Council of the Upper Valley to be used for continuing public health education for Norwich residents particularly in the areas of substance abuse, elder care, oral health, emergency preparedness, and healthy living?

Article 27. Shall the voters appropriate \$1,200 to Senior Solutions (an Area Agency on Aging) to provide social services benefitting Norwich residents aged 60 and older?

Article 28. Shall the voters appropriate \$3,750 to SEVCA (Southeastern Vermont Community Action) to be used for emergency needs, referral to and assistance with accessing needed services, financial counseling and food and nutrition education?

Article 29. Shall the voters appropriate \$2,000 to the Special Needs Support Center of the Upper Valley to help children and adults with special needs, and their families, meet their unique challenges through advocacy and program support?

Article 30. Shall the voters appropriate \$6,000 to The Family Place to be used for general program support, such amount being reasonably necessary for the support of programs such as direct service through early intervention, child care payment assistance, healthy baby visits, reach up, welcome baby, parent education, playgroups and other services?

Article 31. Shall the voters appropriate \$2,000 to the Upper Valley Trails Alliance to be used for trail planning and work?

Article 32. Shall the voters appropriate \$18,500 to the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH to help support the home health, maternal and child health and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings?

Article 33. Shall the voters appropriate \$5,300 to the White River Council on Aging to be used for home delivered meals, transport and social services?

Article 34. Shall the voters appropriate \$1,000 to Windsor County Mentors to be used for mentoring youth?

Article 35. Shall the voters appropriate \$2,500 to WISE (Women's Information Service) to be used to support WISE's crisis intervention and support services and prevention education?

Article 36. Shall the voters appropriate \$3,000 to Youth-In-Action to be used for operating expenses that support our community service efforts?

Article 37. Shall the voters require that taxes be paid in U.S. funds in two installments? The first installment will be due and accepted at the Town of Norwich Finance Office on or before 6:00 pm August 12, 2022 and the balance will be due at the same location on or before 6:00 pm February 10, 2023. A legible, official United States Post Office postmark/cancellation (not a postage machine date) will determine the payment date for all mailed payments. Interest on overdue taxes will be charged at 1% per month for the first three months and 1½% per month thereafter. All delinquent taxes will be subject to an 8% collection fee in accordance with Vermont Statutes after February 10, 2023.

Article 38. To transact any other business that may legally come before the annual Norwich Town Meeting.

Article 39: To authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year in accordance with the provisions of 16 VSA § 562(9).

Article 40: Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District determine and fix the salaries of the School Board members in the sum of \$500 each per year for a total of \$2,500 in accordance with the provisions of 16 VSA § 562(5)?

Article 41: Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District approve the school board to expend \$6,618,680 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing 2022-23 fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$21,404 per equalized pupil (this includes the current proposed Dresden assessment for 7-12th grade). This projected spending per equalized pupils 12.48% higher than spending for the current year.

Article 42: Transact any other business that may legally come before the annual meeting of the Norwich Town School District.

Norwich Selectboard

Claudette Brochu, Chair
Roger Arnold, Vice-Chair
Robert Gere
Marcia Calloway
Mary Layton

Norwich School Board

Tom Candon, Chair
Lisa Christie, Vice-Chair
Neil Odell
Garrett Palm
Lily Trajman

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January 28 A.D. 2022
AT 9 O'CLOCK ~~CO~~ MINA M
AND RECORD IN Misc 20
BOOK 20 PAGE 356-361
ATTEST
Bonnie J. Muncy
TOWN CLERK, NORWICH, VERMONT

NOTICE TO VOTERS

For Local Elections

BEFORE ELECTION DAY:

CHECKLIST POSTED at Clerks Office by **January 30, 2022**. If your name is not on the checklist, then you must register to vote. **SAMPLE BALLOTS** will be posted by **February 19, 2022**

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE: There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. You can register prior by visiting the town clerk's office or going online to olvr.vermont.gov.

REQUEST EARLY or ABSENTEE BALLOTS: You or a family member can request early or absentee ballots at any time during the year of the election in person, in writing, by telephone, email, or online at mvp.sec.state.vt.us. The latest you can request ballots for the **2022 Norwich Town and School District Annual Meeting Election** is the close of the Town Clerk's office on **February 28, 2022 at 12:00 NOON**. (Any other person authorized by you who is not a family member must apply in writing or in person for a ballot for you.)

WAYS TO VOTE YOUR EARLY BALLOT:

- You may vote in the town clerk's office before the deadline.
- Voter may take his or her ballot(s) out of the clerk's office and return in same manner as if the ballots were received by mail.
- Have ballot mailed to you, and mail or deliver it back to the clerk's office before Election Day or to the polling place before 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.
- If you are sick or disabled before Election Day, ask the town clerk to have two justices of the peace bring a ballot to you at your home. (Ballots can be delivered on any of the eight days preceding the day of the election or on the day of election.)

ON ELECTION DAY:

If your name was dropped from the checklist in error or has not been added even though you submitted a timely application for addition to the checklist, you can fill out a new registration form.

! If the clerk or Board of Civil Authority does not add your name, you can appeal the decision to a superior court judge, who will settle the matter on Election Day. Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683) for more information.

If you are a first time voter who submitted your application to the checklist individually by mail and did not submit the required document, you must provide a current and valid photo identification, or a bank statement, utility bill, or government document that contains your name/current address.

If you have physical disabilities, are visually impaired or can't read, you may have assistance from any person of your choice. If any voters you know have disabilities let them know they can have assistance from any person of their choice.

If you know voters who cannot get from the car into the polling place let them know that ballot(s) may be brought to their car by two election officials.

If you have any questions or need assistance while voting, ask your town clerk or any election official for help.

NO PERSON SHALL:

- ! Vote more than once per election, either in the same town or in different towns.
- ! Mislead the board of civil authority about your own or another person's true residency or other eligibility to vote.
- ! Hinder or impede a voter going into or from the polling place.
- ! Socialize in a manner that could disturb other voters in the polling place.
- ! Offer bribe, threaten or exercise undue influence to dictate or control the vote of another person.

FOR HELP OR INFORMATION: Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683). (Accessible by TDD)

If you believe that any of your voting rights have been violated, you may file an Administrative Complaint with the Secretary of State's Office, 128 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633.

If you believe you have witnessed efforts to commit any kind of fraud or corruption in the voting process, you may report this to your local United States Attorney's Office.

If you have witnessed actual or attempted acts of discrimination or intimidation in the voting process, you may report this to the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice at (800) 253-3931.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTERS using Vote Tabulator Ballots

CHECK-IN AND RECEIVE BALLOTS:

- Go to the entrance checklist table.
- Give name and, if asked, street address to the election official in a loud voice.
- Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the official.
- An election official will give you a ballot.
- Enter within the guardrail and go to a vacant voting booth.

MARK YOUR BALLOT: For each office listed on the ballot, you will see instructions to "Vote for not more than one, or Vote for not more than two, etc."

- To vote for a candidate, fill in the oval to the right of the name of the candidate you want to vote for.
- **WRITE-IN** candidate(s). To vote for someone whose name is not printed on the ballot, use the blank "write-in" lines on the ballot and either write-in the name or paste on sticker, then fill in the oval.

CHECK OUT:

- Go to the exit checklist table and state your name in an audible voice.
- Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the official.

CAST YOUR VOTE by depositing your voted ballot into the vote tabulating machine.

LEAVE the voting area immediately by passing outside the guardrail.