

TOWN OF RICHMOND
2025 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Sagadahoc, ss.

State of Maine

TO: James Donnell, Constable of the Town of Richmond

Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Richmond, in said county and State, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Richmond High School in said Town, on **Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 6:00 PM**, then and there to act upon **Articles 1-58**, at the conclusion of which the meeting will be recessed; the recessed meeting will be reconvened at the Richmond Town Office in said Town on **Tuesday, June 10, 2025 from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM**, then and there to act upon **Article 58**.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator, by secret ballot, who will preside at said meeting. The “Maine Moderator’s Guide” shall be utilized by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$230,739 for the **Administration** Account (FY2024-2025: \$225,123).

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$230,739

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$340,385 for the **Benefits** Account (FY2024-2025: \$340,385).

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$340,385

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$16,800 for the **Boards & Committees** Account (FY2024-2025: \$16,800).

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$16,800

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$19,425 for the **Capital Outlay** Account (FY2024-2025: \$25,422).

Select Board Recommends: \$19,425

Budget Committee Recommends: \$4,425

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$59,063 for the **CEO** (Code Enforcement/LPI) Account (FY2024-2025: \$57,366).

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$59,063

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$32,459 for the **Debt Service** Account (FY2024-2025: \$32,459).

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$32,459

- ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$197,899 for the **Fire/EMS** Account (FY2024-2025: \$179,983).
Select Board Recommends: \$197,899
Budget Committee Recommends: \$187,793
- ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$5,000 for the **General Assistance** Account (FY2024-2025: \$10,000).
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$5,000
- ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$89,100 for the **Insurance** Account (FY2024-2025: \$76,600).
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$89,100
- ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,941 for the **Intergovernmental** Account (FY2024-2025: \$15,679).
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$15,941
- ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$66,678 for the Isaac F. Umberhine Public **Library** Account (FY2024-2025: \$64,510).
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$66,678
- ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$7,550 for the **Parks & Cemeteries** Account (FY2024-2025: \$8,430).
Select Board Recommends: \$7,550
Budget Committee Recommends: \$3,630
- ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$302,578 for the **Police** Account (FY2024-2025: \$290,271).
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$302,578
- ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$58,314 for the **Professional Services** (not including Legal Services) Account (FY2024-2025: \$48,579).
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$58,314
- ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$122,500 for the **Public Safety** Account (FY2024-2025: \$122,215).
Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$122,500
- ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$15,324 in the following amounts for support of the following **Public Service Agencies** for the ensuing year:

Dash Unit-Milfoil Program	\$6,500
New Hope For Women	\$670
Richmond Food Pantry:	\$6,000

Spectrum Generations	\$1,654
Tedford Shelter	\$500
TOTAL:	\$15,324

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$15,324

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$425,575 for the **Public Works** Account (FY2024-2025: \$419,105).

Select Board Recommends: \$425,575

Budget Committee Recommends: \$408,575

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$44,467 for the **Recreation** Account (FY2024-2025: \$41,928).

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$44,467

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$34,509 for the **Seniors** Account (FY2024-2025: \$33,250).

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$34,509

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$96,275 for the **Solid Waste** Account (FY2024-2025: \$92,170).

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$96,275

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$28,281 for the **Town Fuel** Account (FY2024-2025: \$37,223).

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: \$28,281

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate \$5,000 from unassigned fund balance to be placed in the **Catch Basin Reserve** Account (FY2024-2025: \$5,000).

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: Approval

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate \$4,200 from unassigned fund balance to be placed in the **Police Equipment Reserve** Account (FY2024-2025: \$4,200).

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: Approval

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate \$400,000 from unassigned fund balance to be placed in the **Public Works Reserve** Account (FY2024-2025: \$350,000).

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: Approval

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate \$5,000 from unassigned fund balance to be placed in the **Town Building Repair & Maintenance Reserve** Account (FY2024-2025: \$5,000).

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: Approval

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate \$250,000 from unassigned fund balance to be placed in the **Town Vehicle Reserve** Account (FY2024-2025: \$200,000).

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: Approval

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate \$5,000 from unassigned fund balance to be placed in the **Employee Contingency Reserve** Account (FY 2024-2025: \$5,000).

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: Approval

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate \$5,000 from unassigned fund balance to be placed in the **Fire Equipment Reserve** Account (FY 2024-2025: \$5,000).

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: Approval

ARTICLE 30: Shall an ordinance entitled "2025 Amendments to the Land Use Ordinance, Town of Richmond, Maine Regarding Shoreland Zoning" be enacted?"

(The proposed ordinance is available for review and inspection at the Town Clerk's Office and will be available at the Town Meeting.)

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate fifty-percent (50%) of the money received from the State of Maine for snowmobile registrations to the Richmond Sno-Rovers Club for the maintenance of their system or network of snowmobile trails, on the condition that those trails be open to the public for snowmobile purposes at no charge in the snow season, and to authorize the Select Board to enter into an agreement with the Club under such terms and conditions as it deems advisable for that purpose.

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: Approval

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$950,000 from the **Estimated Revenues** Account (Non-Property Tax Revenue) to be applied to reduce the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 tax commitment.

Select Board and Budget Committee Recommend: Approval

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to fix the date when property taxes become due and payable, with the first payment being due and payable on November 10, 2025; and the second payment being due and payable on May 10, 2026; and to instruct the Tax Collector to charge interest at 6% per annum on all taxes unpaid after said date(s).

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to set the rate of 2% interest per annum on overpaid and abated taxes and to authorize such interest paid or abatements granted to be appropriated from overlay funds then, if necessary, from unassigned fund balance.

[Note: 36 M.R.S. § 506-A provides the rate of interest may not exceed the rate set for delinquent taxes, nor be less than that rate reduced by 4%.]

- ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 506, with no interest to accrue on any excess paid over the amount finally committed.
- ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to offer a Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Tax Club Plan to taxpayers who enroll no later than July 31, 2025; who pay the total amount of FY 2025-2026 taxes by monthly payments from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026; who abide by the requirements of said plan as established by the Select Board; who shall receive from the Town, in return for such payments, full credit for such taxes paid without incurring any charge of interest.
- ARTICLE 37: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to apply for State, federal (including Community Development Block Grants) and other grants on behalf of the Town for purposes deemed by the Select Board to be in the best interests of the Town; to accept such grants, including, when necessary, the authority to sign contracts and related documents and to accept conditions of approval; and to appropriate such grant funds for any purpose for which the Town has appropriated funds in Fiscal Year 2025-2026.
- ARTICLE 38: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to retain, sell or dispose of, by such means and upon such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems advisable, any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon, and to execute such contracts, deeds and other instruments, and to take such other actions as may in the Select Board's judgment be advisable to affect the sale of such property, or, if the property is residential property and is occupied by the immediate former owner(s), the Select Board may convey the property to the immediate former owner(s) upon payment in full of all taxes, interest and charges incurred by the Town within 90 days of notice to the immediate former owner(s) of the repurchase opportunity; provided, however, that the Select Board shall comply with the requirements of 36 M.R.S. § 943-C if it chooses to sell the property to anyone other than the former owner(s), as is defined in 36 M.R.S. § 943-C.
- ARTICLE 39: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to waive the foreclosure of a tax lien mortgage by recording a waiver of foreclosure at the Registry of Deeds in which the tax lien certificate is recorded prior to expiration of the right of redemption pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 944 upon a finding by the Select Board that ownership of the property that is subject to the tax lien mortgage would be contrary to the Town's best interests.
- ARTICLE 40: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell or otherwise dispose of Town-owned personal property deemed by the Select Board to be obsolete on such terms and conditions as it deems advisable.
- ARTICLE 41: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept or reject donations of personal property and/or to accept or reject gifts of money to the various accounts of the

Town for the ensuing year and to appropriate those monies donated for specific purposes.

ARTICLE 42: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to make final determinations, after notice and hearing, regarding the winter closing of roads in accordance with 23 M.R.S. § 2953(3) and final determinations, after notice and hearing, to annul, alter or modify such orders in accordance with 23 M.R.S. § 2953(4).

ARTICLE 43: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$3,558,917.86 for Regular Instruction.

School Committee and Budget Committee Recommends: \$3,558,917.86

ARTICLE 44: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$1,546,538.28 for Special Education.

School Committee and Budget Committee Recommends: \$1,546,538.28

ARTICLE 45: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$0.00 for Career and Technical Education.

School Committee and Budget Committee Recommends: \$0.00

ARTICLE 46: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$283,198.30 for Other Instruction.

School Committee and Budget Committee Recommends: \$283,198.30

ARTICLE 47: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$978,858.98 for Student and Staff Support.

School Committee and Budget Committee Recommends: \$978,858.98

ARTICLE 48: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$431,697.84 for System Administration.

School Committee and Budget Committee Recommends: \$431,697.84

ARTICLE 49: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$470,475.99 for School Administration.

School Committee and Budget Committee Recommends: \$470,475.99

ARTICLE 50: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$ 497,274.07 for Transportation and Buses.

School Committee and Budget Committee Recommends: \$ 497,274.07

ARTICLE 51: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$973,204.78 for Facilities Maintenance.

School Committee and Budget Committee Recommends: \$973,204.78

ARTICLE 52: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$89,203.61 for All Other Expenditures to include Food Service Support (Recommend \$64,203.61) & Contingency Funds (Recommended \$25,000).

School Committee and Budget Committee Recommends: \$89,203.61

ARTICLE 53: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate 5,731,455.73 for the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see if the Town will vote to raise \$2,203,523.33 as the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with 20-A M.R.S. § 15688.

Explanation: The school administrative unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that a municipality must raise in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.

ARTICLE 54: (Written Ballot Required) Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$ 3,021,492.83 in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by 3,021,492.83 as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Committee?

The School Committee recommends 3,021,492.83 for additional local funds and gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Program and Services funding model by 3,021,492.83

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the school administrative unit's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state-funded debt service that will help achieve the Town's budget for educational programs.

ARTICLE 55: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend \$8,829,369.82 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 from the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, additional local funds for school purposes under 20-A M.R.S. § 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, local appropriations, state subsidy, school lunch revenues, and other receipts for the support of schools.

Explanation: This article is a summary article and approves expenditures of the proposed budget of \$8,829,369.82. This article authorizes the School Committee to expend the money appropriated in the previous articles, plus other revenues. This article does not raise any additional money.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Anticipated Amount</u>
Local Contribution	\$2,203,523.33
Additional Local Funds	\$ 3,021,492.83
Adjusted State Subsidy	\$3,527,932.50
Carry Forward	\$76,421.16
Total	\$8,829,369.82

School Committee Recommends: To expend \$8,829,369.82 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, to fund public education from Pre-kindergarten to grade 12.

ARTICLE 56: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purpose, provided that such grants, programs, or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated.

School Committee and Budget Committee Recommends: *Approval*

ARTICLE 57: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$30,000 to be placed in the Richmond School Department Projects Reserve Account.

School Committee and Budget Committee Recommends: *\$30,000*

ARTICLE 58: To elect by secret ballot the following officials:

- A. One (1) member of the Select Board/Assessors/Overseers for a three (3) year term.
- B. Two (2) Budget Committee members for three (3) year terms.
- C. One (1) Richmond Utilities District member for a three (3) year term.
- D. Two (2) Richmond School Committee members for a three (3) year term.

GIVEN UNTO OUR HANDS THIS _____th day of May, 2025.

Select Board, Richmond, Maine

Robert C. Bodge, Jr., Chair

Andrew C. Alexander, Vice-Chair

Brian York, Select Board Member

Marilynn Grizkewitsch, Select Board Member

Tracy Tuttle, Select Board Member

For purposes of **voter registration**, the Town Clerk, serving as Registrar of Voters, has office hours at the Town Office as follows: Monday through Thursday from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. Please leave a message at the Town Office if other arrangements are required for registration.

If any registered voter of Richmond is **hearing-impaired** and requires the services of someone to sign the meeting in order to allow the voter full participation, please contact the Town Manager as soon as possible so arrangements can be made.

A True copy of the Warrant,

Attest: _____

Sharon Woodward, Town Clerk
Town of Richmond, Maine

RETURN ON THE WARRANT

Richmond, Maine

Pursuant to the within warrant to me directed, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of said Town, qualified as herein expressed, to meet at said time and place, and for the purposes therein named, by posting an attested copy of said warrant at the following locations: Exit 43 Quick Stop; Downeast Credit Union; Charlene's; Richmond Post Office; Tarr Family Feed; Camden National Bank; Town Municipal Building; and the Isaac F. Umberhine Library, being public and conspicuous places in said Town, on the _____ day of _____, 2025, being at least seven days before the meeting.

James Donnell
Constable, Richmond Maine