

WARNING FOR ANNUAL MEETING

FIRE DISTRICT NUMBER 3, TOWN, AND SCHOOL DISTRICT,

2025

The legal voters of the Westminster Fire District Number 3, Westminster Town, and Westminster School District, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Bellows Falls Union High School Auditorium in Westminster, Vermont on Saturday, March 1, 2025 at ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 AM) to take action on the Articles following Article 1.

The meeting will be recessed to the Westminster Institute, 3534 US Route 5, Westminster Vermont to meet at eight o'clock in the forenoon (8:00 A.M.) on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 for the consideration of Article 1, by Australian Ballot. The polls shall remain open until seven o'clock in the evening (7:00 P.M.)

Article 1: To choose all Town Fire District Number 3, Town Officers, and Town School District Officers by Australian Ballot, Tuesday, March 4, 2025, from eight o'clock in the forenoon (8:00 A.M.) until seven o'clock in the evening (7:00 P.M.)

Article 2: *To hear the reports of the Town Fire District Number 3 and to take action Thereupon*

Article 3: To see whether Town Fire District Number 3 shall authorize and instruct its Prudential Committee and Treasurer to borrow money, if necessary, to meet current expenses, on the credit of the district, in anticipation of the collection of taxes and/or the receipt of any State or Federal Funds.

Article 4: To see if the voters of the Town Fire District Number 3 will raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Sixty-Four Thousand, Eight Hundred Dollars (\$364,800) to pay the indebtedness and other general expenses of the District for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026

Article 5: To see if the voters of the Town Fire District Number 3 will authorize the Prudential Committee to expend up to One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) from the Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of a new Utility Vehicle.

Article 6: To transact any other business proper to be brought before the Town Fire District Number 3 meeting.

Article 7: *To hear the reports of the Town Officers and to take action thereupon.*

Article 8: Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster authorize and instruct its Selectboard to borrow money, if necessary, on the credit of the town for its current expenses in anticipation of the collection of taxes and/or the receipt of any State or Federal funds.

Article 9: Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster authorize total General Fund expenditures for operating expenses of One Million Three Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand Eighteen Dollars (\$1,398,018) of which One Million Eighty-Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Thirteen Dollars (\$1,087,913) shall be raised by taxes, and Three Hundred Ten Thousand One Hundred Five (\$310,105) by other estimated revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.

- Article 10:** Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster authorize total Highway Fund expenditures for operating expenses of One Million Seven Hundred Seventy-Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,774,500) of which One Million Six Hundred Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,607,500) shall be raised by taxes, and One Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand Dollars (\$167,000) by other estimated revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.
- Article 11:** Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster raise and appropriate the sum of Seventeen Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$17,400) to complete repairs to the Westminster West Cemetery Hearse Shed?
- Article 12:** Shall the voters in the Town of Westminster increase the annual Town appropriation from Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500) to Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) to support the cost of operation and maintenance of the Westminster Institute and Butterfield Library?
- Article 13:** Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster vote to raise, appropriate, and expend the sum of Three Thousand Eighty-Three Dollars (\$3,083.00) to help support the food budget of Putney Food Shelf, which provides services to residents of the Town of Westminster?
- Article 14:** Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) to support the Bellows Falls Community Bike Project?
- Article 15:** Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster vote to continue their support for the Westminster Gazette in the annual amount of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00) to partially defray costs associated with production and distribution?
- Article 16:** Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster vote to eliminate the elected Board of Listers, in favor of a professional assessing department?
- Article 17:** Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster vote to raise, appropriate and expend the sum of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000.00) annually, in addition to the sum included in the budget proposed by the Selectboard, to help support the rapidly rising costs of operation, maintenance and programming for the Westminster West Public Library?
- Article 18:** Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster allow the Selectboard to offer for public sale, the property known as “North Westminster Community House” to be used exclusively as residential housing?
- Article 19:** Shall the voters of the Town of Westminster vote to utilize Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) for the purpose of reducing taxes from a FY24 budget surplus?
- Article 20:** To transact any other proper business to be brought before the Town of Westminster Annual Meeting.
- Article 21:** *To hear the report of the Westminster Town School District officers and to take action thereon.*
- Article 22:** Shall the voters of the Westminster Town School District authorize and instruct its School Directors and Treasurer to borrow money, if necessary, on the credit of the town school district for its current expenses in anticipation of the collection of taxes and receipt of money due from state aid and other sources.

- Article 23:** Shall the voters of the Westminster Town School District apply the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) from the fiscal year 2024 surplus of Two Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand One Hundred Fifteen Dollars (\$236,115) to create a reserve fund to offset expenditures in the fiscal year 2027.
- Article 24:** Shall the voters of the Westminster Town School District apply the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) from the fiscal year 2024 surplus of Two Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand One Hundred Fifteen Dollars (\$236,115) to create a reserve fund to offset expenditures in the fiscal year 2028.
- Article 25:** Shall the voters apply the sum of Thirty-Six Thousand One Hundred Fifteen Dollars (\$36,115) from the Westminster Town School District 2024 surplus to a reserve fund for repairs or improvements to buildings and grounds, including, although not limited to, enhanced security and energy efficiencies, and to authorize the Board to expend such funds.
- Article 26:** Shall the voters of the Westminster Town School District authorize the school board to expend Five Million Three Hundred Eight Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Four Dollars (**\$5,308,124.00**) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year. The Westminster Town School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$15,015.49, which is 12.67% higher than per pupil education spending of the current year.
- Article 27:** To transact any other proper business to be brought before the Town School District Annual Meeting.