

Town of Goffstown
2026 ANNUAL WARRANT

To the inhabitants of the Town of Goffstown in the County of Hillsborough qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at seven o'clock in the evening (7:00 p.m.) at the Goffstown High School, 27 Wallace Road, in the Dr. Craig Hieber Auditorium in said Town for the first portion of Town Meeting, also known as the Deliberative Session, to act on the following subjects and determine matters which will then be voted upon by the official ballot on Tuesday, March 10, 2026. (Snow date for the first session is Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the same location.)

You are further notified to meet Tuesday, March 10, 2026 to vote on all matters by official ballot. The polls will open on March 10, 2026 at 7:00 A.M. and close at 7:00 P.M. in the First District at the Goffstown High School, 27 Wallace Road and will open at 7:00 A.M. and close at 7:00 P.M. in the Fifth District at the Bartlett Elementary School, 689 Mast Road.

ARTICLE 1
ELECTION OF CANDIDATES

ARTICLE 2

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 to the Goffstown Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board, to amend the definition of Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADUs) 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).

ARTICLE 3

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 to the Goffstown Zoning Ordinance, as proposed by the Planning Board, to amend the provisions of Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADUs) 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).

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ARTICLE 4

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 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).

ARTICLE 5

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 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).

ARTICLE 6

Are you in favor of the adoption of No. 5 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).

ARTICLE 7

Are you in favor of the adoption of No. 6 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 50 100 feet of wetlands of at least 2,000 contiguous square feet, (d) slopes in excess of 25 20%, (e) high-tension power line utility easements, and (f) the area of any proposed public or private street rights-of-way, and (e) 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).

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ARTICLE 8

Are you in favor of the adoption of No. 7 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).

ARTICLE 9

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate for the operation, expenses and commitments of the town General Fund, the budget approved by the Budget Committee in the amount of \$27,519,425.

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

The motion on the operating budget shall be the following, with only the appropriation amount subject to amendment:

“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.” NOTE: This article (operating budget) does not include appropriations in any other warrant article.

Recommended/Not Recommended by the Select Board _ - - _.

Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-5-0.

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ARTICLE 10

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate for the operation, expenses and commitments of the Sewer Enterprise Fund, the budget approved by the Budget Committee in the amount of \$2,225,081.

This budget will be predicated by estimated revenues collected from sewer use fees in the amount of \$2,225,081. This article is paid for by customers serviced by the Goffstown Sewer collection System, which operates as a municipal enterprise fund. This article (Sewer Enterprise Fund operating budget) has no tax impact.

The motion on the sewer fund operating budget shall be the following, with only the appropriation amount subject to amendment:

“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.”

NOTE: This article is paid for by customers serviced by the Goffstown Sewer collection System, which operates as a municipal enterprise fund. This article (Sewer Enterprise Fund operating budget) has no tax impact.

Recommended by the Sewer Commissioners 3-0-0.

Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0-0.

ARTICLE 11

To see if the town will 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).

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.

Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0-0.

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ARTICLE 12

To see if the Town will 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.
(Majority vote required.)

Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-3-1.

ARTICLE 13

To see if the Town will 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 the Operating Budget Article).
This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No new amount to be raised by taxation.
(Majority vote required.)

Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.
Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-3-1.

ARTICLE 14

To see if the Town will 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 the Operating Budget Article).
This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. No new amount to be raised by taxation.
(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.
Recommended by the Budget Committee 8-4-1.

ARTICLE 15

To see if the Town will 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).
(Majority vote required)

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

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ARTICLE 16

To see if the Town will 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).

(Majority vote required)

Recommended/Not Recommended by the Select Board _ - _ - _.
Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-1-1.

ARTICLE 17

To see if the Town will 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.

(Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Select Board 5-0-0.

ARTICLE 18

To see if the Town will 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). We seek through this petition to 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.

(Majority vote required)

Submitted by petition.

Recommended/Not Recommended by the Select Board _ - _ - _.

ARTICLE 19

To see if the Town will 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.

(Majority vote required)

Submitted by petition.

Recommended/Not Recommended by the Select Board _ - _ - _.

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ARTICLE 20

To see if the Town will vote to restrict commercialization and retail sales for the following nonregulated intoxicating substances.

Prohibited Activities.

I. It shall be unlawful for any person to use, possess, purchase, attempt to purchase, sell, offer to sell, give away, deliver, or publicly display for sale any of the following substances or products containing such substances:

(a) **Kratom Products** containing mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, which are the primary active compounds in kratom.

(b) **Hallucinogenic plants and fungi**, including but not limited to:

- Amanita muscaria
- Nymphaea caerulea (Blue Lotus)
- Egyptian Lotus (including Nelumbo nucifera if applicable)
- Salvia divinorum
- Amanita pantherina

(c) **Poppers**, defined as any "abusable volatile chemical" labeled with "VAPOR HARMFUL" under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act, which when inhaled, ingested, or otherwise introduced into the body may affect the central nervous system, cause intoxication, hallucination, or elation, or distort eyesight, thinking, balance, or coordination. This includes but is not limited to **nitrous oxide** and **alkyl nitrites**, unless used in regulated medical or industrial contexts. This definition excludes regulated pesticides, food, drugs, cosmetics, or alcoholic beverages.

Penalties-

Those found in violation of this law will be subject to the penalties found in New Hampshire RSA 318-B and New Hampshire RSA 644:5-a. If a specific penalty is not outlined in RSA 318-B or RSA 644:5-a, refer to RSA 318-B:26 and apply the penalty associated with cannabis, based on the weight of the substance involved (e.g., ounces, grams, pounds, or milligrams).

This warrant article would have zero tax impact

Submitted by petition.

Recommended/Not Recommended by the Select Board _ - - _.

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ARTICLE 21

To see if the Town will vote to restrict retail access to nonregulated and intoxicating cannabis or marijuana related products.

Prohibited Activities.

THC Regulation

Age Restriction

No person or entity shall sell, offer for sale, or distribute any THC products (natural or synthetic tetrahydrocannabinol, which appear in any formulation, including delta-8 THC, delta-9THC, or any other THC isomer variant) to a person under the age of 21.

Packaging and Labeling Requirements

All THC products shall be sold in tamper-evident, resealable, and child-resistant packaging. Packaging shall not resemble candy snacks, or any product commonly marketed to children. No THC product shall be advertised using cartoons, toys, or imagery appealing to minors. No THC product shall be named or labeled in a manner that mimics non-cannabis food or beverage products.

All THC product labels shall include: I. THC content per serving and per package. II. The universal THC warning symbol. III. A warning stating “Keep out of reach of children.” IV. Batch number and expiration date. V. A QR code linking to the Certificate of Analysis (COA) for the batch.

Product Testing Requirements

- I. All THC products shall be tested by a licensed, independent laboratory prior to sale.
- II. Testing shall include analysis for:
 - (a) Potency (THC, CBD, and other cannabinoids)
 - (b) Pesticides
 - (c) Heavy metals
 - (d) Microbial contaminants
 - (e) Residual solvents (for extracts)

Penalties

Those found in violation of this law will be subject to the penalties found in New Hampshire RSA 318-B.

This warrant article would have zero tax impact

Submitted by petition.

Recommended/Not Recommended by the Select Board _ - _ - _.

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ARTICLE 22

To transact any business that may legally come before said meeting.

Given under our Hands and Seal this 20th day of January, 2026.

GOFFSTOWN SELECT BOARD

Peter Georgantas, Chairman

Jim Craig

Mark T. Lemay, Vice Chairwoman

Joshua Douglas

Richard Manzo

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