



**ABSENTEE
OFFICIAL BALLOT
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
AMHERST, NEW HAMPSHIRE
MARCH 14, 2017**

BALLOT 1 OF 2

Nancy A. Demers
TOWN CLERK

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this:
- B. Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office.
- C. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate's name on the line provided and completely fill in the OVAL.

<p align="center">SELECTMEN</p> <p align="center">Vote for not (3 Years) more than one</p> <p>THOMAS GRELLA <input type="radio"/></p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">(Write-in)</p>	<p align="center">LIBRARY TRUSTEE</p> <p align="center">Vote for not (3 Years) more than two</p> <p>DAVID STURROCK <input type="radio"/></p> <p>KIMBERLY AYERS <input type="radio"/></p> <p>NANCY HEAD <input type="radio"/></p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">(Write-in)</p>	<p align="center">TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUNDS</p> <p align="center">Vote for not (3 Years) more than one</p> <p>SCOTT COURTEMANCHE <input type="radio"/></p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">(Write-in)</p>
<p align="center">TOWN CLERK</p> <p align="center">Vote for not (3 Years) more than one</p> <p>NANCY A. DEMERS <input type="radio"/></p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">(Write-in)</p>	<p align="center">SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST</p> <p align="center">Vote for not (3 Years) more than one</p> <p>DONELLA "DONNI" HODGKINS <input type="radio"/></p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">(Write-in)</p>	<p align="center">ZONING BOARD MEMBER</p> <p align="center">Vote for not (3 Years) more than two</p> <p>TIMOTHY McGIBBON <input type="radio"/></p> <p>JAMES M. RAMSAY <input type="radio"/></p> <p>DAVID STURROCK <input type="radio"/></p> <p>CHARLES VARS <input type="radio"/></p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">(Write-in)</p>
<p align="center">CEMETERY TRUSTEE</p> <p align="center">Vote for not (3 Years) more than one</p> <p>MARIE T. GRELLA <input type="radio"/></p> <p><input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">(Write-in)</p>		

ARTICLES

ARTICLE 22: Operating Budget

Shall the Town vote to 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 herein, totaling **\$13,389,021**. Should this article be defeated the default budget shall be **\$12,885,989** which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town 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. This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations contained in ANY other Warrant Article. (Majority vote)

YES
NO

*(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 4-0-1.)
(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 7-0-0.)*

ARTICLE 23: Contingency Fund

Shall the Town vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year, in accordance with NH RSA Section 31:98-a, for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (**\$150,000**) to go into the fund. Said sum shall come from the undesignated fund balance and no amount to be raised from taxation. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund. (Majority vote)

YES
NO

*(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)
(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 7-0-0.)*

TURN BALLOT OVER AND CONTINUE VOTING

ARTICLES CONTINUED

ARTICLE 24: Police Union Contract

Shall the Town vote to approve the cost items in a three (3) year collective bargaining agreement (beginning July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020) reached between the Board of Selectmen and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local 3657 (Police Union) and further to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty-three thousand three hundred sixty-three dollars (**\$53,363**) for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels. (Majority vote)

Year Two (2) FY 19 \$59,599
Year Three (3) FY 20 \$27,253

YES
NO

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)
(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-1-0.)

ARTICLE 25: Special Meeting if Collective Bargaining Agreement is defeated

Shall the Town, if Article 24 – Police Union Contract is defeated, authorize the Board of Selectmen to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 24 – cost items only. (Majority vote)

YES
NO

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)
(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.)

ARTICLE 26: Assessing Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (**\$25,000**) to be added to the Assessing Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. (Majority vote)

YES
NO

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)
(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 7-0-0.)

ARTICLE 27: Communications Center Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (**\$25,000**) to be added to the Communications Center Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. (Majority vote)

YES
NO

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)
(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 7-0-0.)

ARTICLE 28: Change of Purpose, Fire Truck Refurbish and Purchase Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to change the purpose of the existing Fire Truck Refurbish and Purchase Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:16, to the Fire Rescue Vehicle and Equipment Purchase and Repair Capital Reserve Fund, and further to name the selectmen as agents to expend. (2/3 vote required)

YES
NO

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)
(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.)

ARTICLE 29: Fire Rescue Vehicle and Equipment Purchase and Repair Capital Reserve

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (**\$200,000**) to be added to the Fire Rescue Vehicle and Equipment Purchase and Repair Capital Reserve Fund previously established. In the event Article 28 does not pass, this amount will be added to the existing Fire Truck Refurbish and Purchase Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote)

YES
NO

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)
(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.)

ARTICLE 30: Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (**\$50,000**) to be added to the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. (Majority vote)

YES
NO

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)
(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 7-0-0.)

ARTICLE 31: Bridge Repair and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred and fifteen thousand (**\$115,000**) to be added to the Bridge Repair and Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. (Majority vote)

YES
NO

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)
(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 7-0-0.)

GO TO NEXT BALLOT AND CONTINUE VOTING



**ABSENTEE
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BALLOT 2 OF 2

Nancy G. Jensen
TOWN CLERK

ARTICLES CONTINUED

ARTICLE 32: Town Computer System Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (**\$15,000**) to be added to the Town Computer System Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. (Majority vote)

YES

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)

NO

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.)

ARTICLE 33: Elderly, Blind, and Disabled Exemption

Shall the Town vote to modify the elderly, blind, and disabled exemptions from property tax in the Town of Amherst, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers to be as follows:

For elderly persons:

- 65 years of age up to 74 years inclusive, an exemption of \$76,000 (formerly \$71,000);
- 75 years of age up to 79 years inclusive, an exemption of \$114,000 (formerly \$107,000);
- 80 years of age or older, an exemption of \$151,000 (formerly \$142,000); and

For blind persons of any age:

- an exemption of \$37,000 (formerly \$35,000); and

For disabled persons of any age:

- an exemption of \$65,000 (formerly \$61,000).

To qualify for any of the above exemptions, a person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least three (3) years (5 years for the disabled person), own real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least five (5) years.

In addition, the taxpayer must, for the elderly and the disabled exemptions only:

- have a net income of not more than \$41,760, or if married, a combined net income of less than \$57,000; and
- own assets not in excess of \$150,000 excluding the value of the person's residence in accordance with RSA 72:39-a. (Majority vote)

YES

(The Board of Selectmen voted 5-0-0 to support this article.)

NO

(The Ways and Means Committee voted 6-0-0 to support this article.)

ARTICLE 34: All Service Veterans' Tax Credit

Shall the Town vote to adopt the "all veterans' property tax credit" under the provisions of RSA 72:28-b in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500). If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident, who (1) served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or was an officer honorably separated from service, and (2) is not eligible for and not receiving the credit for veterans who served in a qualifying war or armed conflict or for veterans with a service-connected disability. If adopted, the credit will be in the amount of \$500, which is the same amount as the credit for a veteran who served in a qualifying war or armed conflict. If the credit is adopted, any person desiring to claim the credit will be required to file an application with the selectmen or the assessors by April 15 of the tax year. (Majority vote)

YES

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)

NO

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 6-0-0.)

ARTICLE 35: Build Forest View Cemetery

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy thousand dollars (**\$70,000**), for the purpose of defraying costs associated with construction of the Forest View Cemetery, and to authorize the withdrawal of said sum from the available balance in the expendable trust established pursuant to RSA 31:19-a, by the passage of warrant article No. 22, at the March 1987 annual town meeting, which expendable trust is known as the Cemetery Lot Trust Fund. (Majority vote)

YES

(The Board of Selectmen supports this article by a vote of 5-0-0.)

NO

(The Ways and Means Committee supports this article by a vote of 5-1-1.)

TURN BALLOT OVER AND CONTINUE VOTING

2017 ZONING WARRANT ARTICLES

ARTICLE 36: Elderly Housing

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

To **Amend** Section 4.20 of the Zoning Ordinance to clarify that density in an elderly housing development shall be determined using the base density and bonus densities as described in Section 4.16 – Integrated Innovative Housing Ordinance (IIHO).

YES
NO

(The Planning Board voted 7-0-0 to support this article)

ARTICLE 37: Integrated Innovative Housing Ordinance

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

To **Amend** Section 4.16.B.3 & Section 4.16.E to update for consistency with 2016 Zoning Amendments.

YES
NO

(Planning Board recommends approval of this amendment 7-0)

ARTICLE 38: Accessory Apartments

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

To **Amend** Section 9.1, Definitions by **changing** the allowable area for an accessory apartment to 1,100 Square Feet and changing the allowable number of bedrooms to up to two.

YES
NO

(Planning Board recommends this amendment by a vote of 7-0)

ARTICLE 39: Formatting Errors

Are you in favor of adopting Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board as follows:

To **Amend** Section 4.14.I to change “shall” to “may,” and to **Amend** Section 4.17.B to add “**and Section 4.16 – IIHO**” after “Subdivision Regulations.”

YES
NO

(Planning Board recommends this amendment by a vote of 7-0)

YOU HAVE NOW COMPLETED VOTING THIS BALLOT