



TOWN WARRANT

For the Town of Warner
The State of New Hampshire

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To the inhabitants of the Town of Warner, in the County of Merrimack, in the State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town affairs, you are hereby notified and warned that the Annual Town Meeting will be held as follows:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Warner Town Hall in said Warner, NH on Tuesday, the 10th day of March next (2026) beginning at seven o'clock in the morning and ending at seven o'clock in the evening to elect officers of the Town by official ballot and to act upon the following subjects

Article 1: To choose Town officers for the ensuing year.

Article 2: Are you in favor of the adoption of the following amendment to the Town's Zoning Ordinance: Amendment to Article III Definitions, Article IV General Provisions, Article XIV-B Accessory Apartment and Table 1 USE Regulations? This Amendment is proposed by the Planning Board and was unanimously approved 7-0. It is necessary to comply with the new State ADU requirements.

ADJOURN TO WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026, 6:00 PM

Article 3: Town Operating Budget

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,057,709 (Five million, fifty-seven thousand, seven hundred and nine dollars) as the 2026 Operating Budget for general municipal operations? This amount does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. Recommended by Select Board, (2-1), Recommended by Budget Committee (7-0). Majority vote required.

Article 4: Citizen Petition - regarding mountain bike trail on Mt. Kearsarge

Whereas Warner taxpayers deserve the opportunity to provide input in the decision by the Statewide Trails Advisory Committee (STAC) to allow construction of a mountain bike trail in Rollins Park and State Forest on Mt. Kearsarge;
Whereas no botanical or biological inventory has been conducted along the proposed trail(s) route; and
Whereas no safety plan has been devised for this steep "enduro style" trail in the semi-wilderness landscape of Mt. Kearsarge; and
Whereas adjacent and nearby landowners have expressed concern about the subsequent, unauthorized creation of spider trails onto private lands, and the scarcity of state resources to address this type of trespass; and

Whereas additional time is needed to ensure meaningful public input by residents at Warner's March 2026 Annual Town Meeting,
Are you in favor of respectfully urging the responsible State entities to deny further consideration of the current proposal until the above concerns and deficiencies have been met? Submitted by petition. Recommended by the Select Board, (3-0).

Article 5: Citizen Petition - regarding Education Freedom Accounts

Whereas, taxpayers have a right to know how their money is spent and deserve clear, verifiable evidence that it is being spent wisely and delivering results; and
Whereas, taxpayer dollars are being diverted from public schools to private and religious education through Education Freedom Accounts (vouchers), and this shift does not reduce public school expenses, leaving local taxpayers to cover the difference through higher property taxes; and
Whereas, unlike public schools, private education funded by taxpayers through vouchers lacks key accountability measures, such as reporting how funds are used, tracking student performance, ensuring services for students with disabilities, and conducting background checks for staff;
Therefore, we the voters of Warner, New Hampshire, call on our state elected officials to uphold their duty to fiscal responsibility by rejecting taxpayer funding for private education until we have full accountability, transparency, and a sustainable funding plan that ensures no further strain on public schools or local property taxpayers. We further direct the Warner Select Board to deliver this warrant article and results in writing to New Hampshire's Governor and members of the State Legislature within thirty days of this vote. Submitted by petition. Recommended by the Select Board, (3-0).

Article 6: Citizen Petition - regarding town financial audit

Shall the town vote to require the Select Board to publish the annual town financial audit without redaction prominently on the town website within 7 days of receipt from the town auditors and to further require the Select Board to add a standing agenda item to their public meeting to address deficiencies reported by the Auditors. Submitted by petition. Not recommended by the Select Board, (2-1).

Article 7: Citizen Petition - regarding the town's payroll service

Shall the town vote to require the Select Board to outsource Payroll to one of the three companies it received quotes from in 2025 (ADP, CheckmateHCM or Paychex). Recommended by the Audit Search Committee 4-0 and communicated to the Warner Select Board. Submitted by petition. Not recommended by the Select Board, (2-1).

Article 8: Citizen Petition - Tax Cap

Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b. and implement a tax cap whereby the governing body (budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes, based on the prior fiscal year's actual

amount of local taxes raised, by more than 4%. Submitted by petition. Not recommended by the Select Board, (2-1). 3/5 Majority vote required.

Article 9: Police Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$15,000 (Fifteen Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the previously established Police Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by Select Board, (2-1), Recommended by Budget Committee (7-0). Majority vote required.

Article 10: Bridge Repair/Replacement

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$125,000.00 (One Hundred Twenty-five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the previously established Bridge Replacement and Maintenance CRF? Recommended by Select Board, (2-1), Recommended by Budget Committee (7-0). Majority vote required.

Article 11: Highway Equipment

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the previously established Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund? Recommended by Select Board, (2-1), Recommended by the Budget Committee (7-0). Majority vote required.

Article 12: Transfer Station Equipment

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$25,000 (Twenty-five Thousand Dollars) to be placed in the previously established Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund? Recommended by the Select Board, (3-0), Recommended by the Budget Committee (7-0). Majority vote required.

Article 13: Fire Fighters Equipment

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 (Thirty Thousand Dollars) to be added to the previously established Fire Fighter Equipment Capital Reserve Fund? Recommended by Select Board, (2-1), Recommended by Budget Committee (7-0). Majority vote required.

Article 14: Fire & Rescue Vehicles

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 (Fifty Thousand Dollars) to be added to the previously established Fire and Rescue Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund? Recommended by Select Board, (2-1), Recommended by Budget Committee (7-0). Majority vote required.

Article 15: Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$32,500 (Thirty-two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars) to be added to the previously established Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund? Recommended by Selectboard, (3-0), Recommended by Budget Committee (7-0). Majority vote required.

Article 16: Establish a Contingency Fund

Shall the Town vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further raise and appropriate the amount of \$20,000 (Twenty Thousand Dollars) to be placed into the fund? This sum is to come from unassigned fund balance. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the General Fund. Recommended by Selectboard, (3-0), Recommended by Budget Committee (7-0). Majority vote required.

Article 17: Establish an Emergency Management revolving fund

Shall the Town vote to establish an Emergency Operations Center revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of supporting Warner's Emergency Operations Center activities beyond the normal operating budget for Emergency Management, and furthermore to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,500.00 to come from the unassigned fund balance. All revenue received for services supported by this fund will be deposited into the fund, and the money in this fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year and shall not be considered part of the Town's General Fund Balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund and shall pay out the same only upon order of the Select Board and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. Recommended by Select Board, (3-0), Recommended by Budget Committee (7-0). Majority vote required.

Article 18: Modify optional veterans tax credit

Shall the Town of Warner vote in accordance with RSA 72:27-a to modify the provisions of RSA 72:35, previously adopted, for an optional tax credit of Two Thousand One Hundred and Fifty dollars (\$2,150) for a Service-Connected Total and Permanent Disability on residential property? If approved, this article shall take effect for the 2026 property tax year. Recommended by Select Board, (3-0), Recommended by Budget Committee (7-0). Majority vote required.

Article 19: Business

To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

