

# THE BEDFORD TAXPAYER

Bedford Taxpayers Association P.O. Box 10473 Bedford, NH 03110-0473

Volume 30, No. 1

Special Edition for March 12, 2019 Elections

March 2019

## VOTE March 12!

---

Continuing a practice begun in 1990, BEDFORD TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION (BTA) offers its suggestions on HOW TO VOTE on candidates and warrant articles on March 12

---

### SCHOOL DISTRICT:

#### Article I: ELECTION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICERS

BTA endorses JOHN SCHNELLER for School Board. John has spent 3 years serving as a strong taxpayer advocate on the Town Council. We believe John will take the time to consider “wants versus needs,” and whether all Bedford citizens are truly benefiting from money spent by the School District. **Please Vote JOHN SCHNELLER (X)**

#### Article II: SPECIAL WARRANT ARTICLE, ENERGY RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE BOND

This Bond seems excessive for the benefits proposed. It is not unusual to have lighting in a building replaced for free (not a \$ million) and we question the actual payback on some of the other items. This needs more research. **Vote NO (X)**

#### Article III: NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT WITH PROFESSIONAL STAFF

These raises are part of the two year BEA agreement. **Vote YES (X)**

**Article IV: CONDITIONAL ARTICLE** A waste of money. **Vote NO (X)**

**Article V: OPERATING BUDGET** Projected cost is **\$74,997,375**. This is an **INCREASE of \$1,300,011** over this year’s budget. The Default Budget is **\$73,697,864**, which is the same as this year’s Operating Budget!! The number of students peaked in 2016/17, then dropped a bit. It is projected to remain the same for the next 2 years. Defeating the Operating Budget and living with the Default Budget will not cause education program cuts. All staff salaries and raises are included in the Default Budget as well as special education costs. Since last year’s Operating Budget ended with a surplus, we can assume another surplus by the end of this year. There is no possibility that the Default Budget will be inadequate even for unexpected costs. **Vote NO (X)**

**If Article V is defeated, you will slow the increase in your taxes for next year. For the last 20 years Bedford’s School District Operating Budget has increased by over \$46 million, which has caused property taxes to more than double on an average Bedford home. The time has come to halt perpetual School District tax increases. We are taxing many of our Senior Citizens out of their homes.**

## **TOWN:**

### **Article 1: ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICES**

TOWN COUNCIL: BTA endorses DAVID GILBERT and DENISE RICCIARDI, because they are proven fiscal conservatives. David has been an effective taxpayer watchdog for his previous term on the Town Council. Denise has served as an energetic volunteer in many capacities in Bedford for 23 years. Both candidates clearly have the background, energy, experience, and financial skills to accomplish Town Council goals. BTA is certain that we can count on them to keep our taxes low. **Please Vote GILBERT and RICCIARDI (X)**

TOWN CLERK: BTA endorses SALLY KELLAR. **Vote KELLAR (X)**

LIBRARY TRUSTEE: Both candidates are qualified. **Vote You Decide (X)**

### **Article 2: ZONING AMENDMENTS**

ZONING AMENDMENTS 1,2,3: These proposed amendments are routine housekeeping, to clarify definitions and comply with changes in State Law. **Vote YES (X)**

ZONING AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED BY CITIZEN PETITION 4,5,6: These proposed changes reflect the concerns of many citizens, who want to see better controls on land use in Bedford for various purposes including Workforce Housing. These are intended to minimize any infrastructure problems and retain existing property values. **Vote YES (X)**

ZONING AMENDMENT SUBMITTED BY CITIZEN PETITION 7: This is a request by Bill Greiner, Dick Anagnost and others to change the land uses in Bedford in order to make it easier for them to do their various developments including Workforce Housing in areas where they would not currently be allowed. **Vote NO (X)**

### **Article 3: ISSUANCE OF LONG TERM DEBT (BOND) FOR PARKS AND RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE**

This is a \$3,900,000 bond to fund what amounts to wants rather than needs. The users of the Town's recreation fields, who are a minority of our citizens, should pay for any needed improvements to those fields. Taxpayers should not. **Vote NO (X)**

### **Article 4: WASTEWATER AND STORMWATER ASSET MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

This is another Bond to fund a \$60,000 planning boondoggle to manage assets for future possible stormwater collection, which maybe might be refunded after we apply for a Government Loan, which we did not need to begin with. **Vote NO (X)**

**M.E.T.E.R.**

**Match Expenditures To Estimated Revenue =  
NO TAX RATE INCREASE**

# LESS Spending = LOWER Taxes!

## Join (or rejoin) **BEDFORD TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION (BTA)**

For the four years 1986 - 1989, Bedford's property tax rate skyrocketed by \$9.31, nearly 53%! Beginning in 1990, the year after BTA was formed, for the next 15 years, the tax rate increases averaged only 57¢ a year, an average of just 2.3% per year, well below the cost of living increases. In one year, there was NO tax rate increase; in 3 years, there were tax rate **REDUCTIONS!!** You should also know that **BTA has never raised its dues!**

Just think what Bedford's tax rate would be today had BTA NOT come into existence in 1989. How many **THOUSANDS** of dollars have been saved because BTA has been working hard for 30 years to limit annual increases in spending to that amount of new revenue generated by the growth in the tax base?

To keep tax increases small, BTA helps elect **FISCAL CONSERVATIVES** at every level of government - federal, state, county, local. To do this, BTA mails town-wide our newsletter "**The BEDFORD TAXPAYER**" at a cost of \$3000 for each edition. If you find this newsletter helpful to you in deciding how to vote, please help us pay the cost of sending it. Visit our website at **bedfordtaxpayers.com** for other information or to **JOIN AND PAY ONLINE.**

Please JOIN, REJOIN, or Renew your Membership today to help BTA continue its constant fight to keep spending REASONABLE and taxes AFFORDABLE.

**Together, Taxpayers CAN control spending and taxes.  
HELP us by JOINING us.**

---

### **BEDFORD TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION**    *Membership Application*

- Individual** \$20     **Couple** \$30     **Small Business** (up to 100 employees) \$50  
 **Large Business** (over 100 employees) \$250     **Bronze Member** \$1,000  
 **Organization** (\$1 per member, \$25 minimum, \$100 maximum) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 **Silver Member** \$3,000     **Gold Member** \$5,000     **Platinum Member** \$10,000  
 Also enclosed is something EXTRA to help BTA fight to keep spending reasonable & taxes affordable.  
 \$5     \$10     \$15     \$20     \$25     \$30     \$50     \$70     \$80     \$100     \$200     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Your membership dues could save you hundreds of dollars a year in taxes!**

**BEDFORD TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION**  
PO Box 10473 – Bedford, NH 03110-0473  
Keeping spending REASONABLE, taxes AFFORDABLE

---

PRSRT MKTG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #575  
Manchester, NH

**IMPORTANT VOTING NOTICE**  
Town/School District Elections  
Tuesday, March 12, 2019  
Bedford High School Gymnasium  
Budgetary Town Meeting 7:00 pm  
Wednesday, March 13, 2019  
Bedford High School Theater  
Sample Ballots Available -  
Online and at Town Office

***BTA'S VOTING RECOMMENDATIONS***  
***BEDFORD - A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, PLAY!***

---

# **IMPORTANT! VOTE March 12!**

---

## **TOWN:**

**Article 1 - TOWN OFFICES Vote Denise Ricciardi and  
David L. Gilbert for Town Council.**

---

**Article 2 - ZONING AMENDMENT 7 - Vote NO  
AMENDMENTS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 - Vote YES**

---

**Articles 3 & 4 - BONDS - Vote NO**

---

## **SCHOOL DISTRICT:**

**Article I - SCHOOL OFFICES  
Vote John Schneller for School Board**

---

**Article II - SPECIAL WARRANT ARTICLE - Vote NO**

---

**Article III - NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT - Vote YES**

---

**Article V - OPERATING BUDGET - Vote NO**

---