SAMPLE OFFICIAL BALLOT ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION BEDFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE MARCH 11, 2025

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.

ARTICLE 1. ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICES TRUSTEE OF THE TRUSTEE OF THE **TOWN COUNCIL** Vote for not **TRUST FUNDS TRUST FUNDS** For Three Years more than two (2) Vote for not Vote for not **KATHLEEN BEMISS** For Three Years more than one (1) For One Year more than one (1) **DAVID L. GILBERT RYAN CALLAGHAN MAC MCMAHAN GAIL LEVESQUE** (Write-in) (Write-in) (Write-in) LIBRARY TRUSTEE Vote for not (Write-in) For Three Years more than one (1) LAUREN SAIDEL-BAKER (Write-in) ARTICLES Article 2. ZONING AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY THE PLANNING BOARD Amendment No. 1 Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bedford Zoning Ordinance to amend Article I, Section 275-6, Definitions, Article III, Section 275-21 and Table 2 - Table of Uses, Article III, Sections 275-21B(4), Workforce housing and 275-21B(2-3), Elderly Housing, and Article VIII Section 275-61, permitted uses in the Performance Zone, as follows:

This amendment modifies Bedford's workforce housing zoning regulations to bring them into required compliance with New Hampshire State law and updates the elderly housing regulations with regards to permitted density, location, and affordability requirements.

[This amendment makes changes to the workforce housing zoning regulations to bring it into compliance with New Hampshire State law. The amendment also updates the elderly housing regulations to rename the use "senior housing" and aligns senior housing with workforce housing with regards to permitted density, location, and affordability requirements.

The significant changes include permitting senior housing in the Performance Zone, removing the existing restriction that limits workforce housing to sites without frontage on the FE Everett Turnpike and South River Road, removing the restriction that workforce housing in the Performance Zone cannot contain more than 12 units within a building, and reducing the required number of affordable units for workforce and senior housing from 25% to 10% of the total units proposed. The amendment also permits the development of a single "back lot" with a reduced frontage of not less than 50 feet in the Residential & Agricultural Zone, provided the lot is deed restricted as a workforce ownership unit.

This amendment is the result of the Planning Board's Housing Opportunity Planning Grant study which included public outreach, research, and extensive discussion. The complete text of the 4-page amendment is on file for public viewing at the Town Clerk's Office and on the Town's Website.]

TURN BALLOT OVER AND CONTINUE VOTING

BALLOT 1 OF 4

YES 🔘

NO 🔿

ARTICLES CONTINUED

YES 🔾

YES 🔿

YES 🔘

NO 🔘

Amendment No. 2

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bedford Zoning Ordinance to amend Article III, Section 275-22 Dimensional Regulations, and Table 1, Table of Dimensional Regulations, and Section 275-21, Table 2, Table of Uses, as follows:

This amendment reduces the dimensional requirements for single-family lots in the General Residential Zone by reducing the front setback from 35 feet to 15 feet and the side and rear setback from 25 feet to 10 feet. The minimum required lot size would also be reduced from ½ acre to 10,000 sq. ft. with 80 feet of road frontage required for lots served by both public water and sewer, for lots served by public water or sewer the lot size would be reduced from 1.0 acre to 20,000 sq. ft. with 100 feet of road frontage required. The amendment also permits a detached accessory apartment by conditional use permit in the General Residential Zone provided the lot is served by public water or sewer and contains at least 1.0 acre.

[This amendment is intended to better align the dimensional standards in the General Residential Zone with the existing smaller lot sizes and land use patterns, by reducing the minimum lot sizes and building setbacks and to permit a detached accessory apartment by conditional use permit on lots with a minimum size of 1.0 acre, provided the lot is served by public water or sewer. The complete text of the 1-page amendment is on file for public viewing at the Town Clerk's Office and on the Town's Website.]

Amendment No. 3

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bedford Zoning Ordinance to Amend Article III, Section 275-21 and Table 2 - Table of Uses, to create a new Sub-Section for Cottage Court Housing, as follows:

To allow for the development of Cottage Court Housing by conditional use permit in the General Residential Zone, Commercial Zone, Commercial-2 Zone, Office Zone and Performance Zone at a density of 10 units per net developable area, and with a requirement to connect to public water. Cottages are single-family homes, not larger than 1,500 SF and 1 ½ stories tall, arranged around common open space, subject to design criteria and architectural review by the Planning Board.

[This amendment is intended to allow for the development of Cottage Court Housing by conditional use permit in the General Residential Zone, Commercial Zone, Commercial-2 Zone, Office Zone and Performance Zone, subject to design criteria and architectural review by the Planning Board. The complete text of the 4-page amendment is on file for public viewing at the Town Clerk's Office and on the Town's Website.]

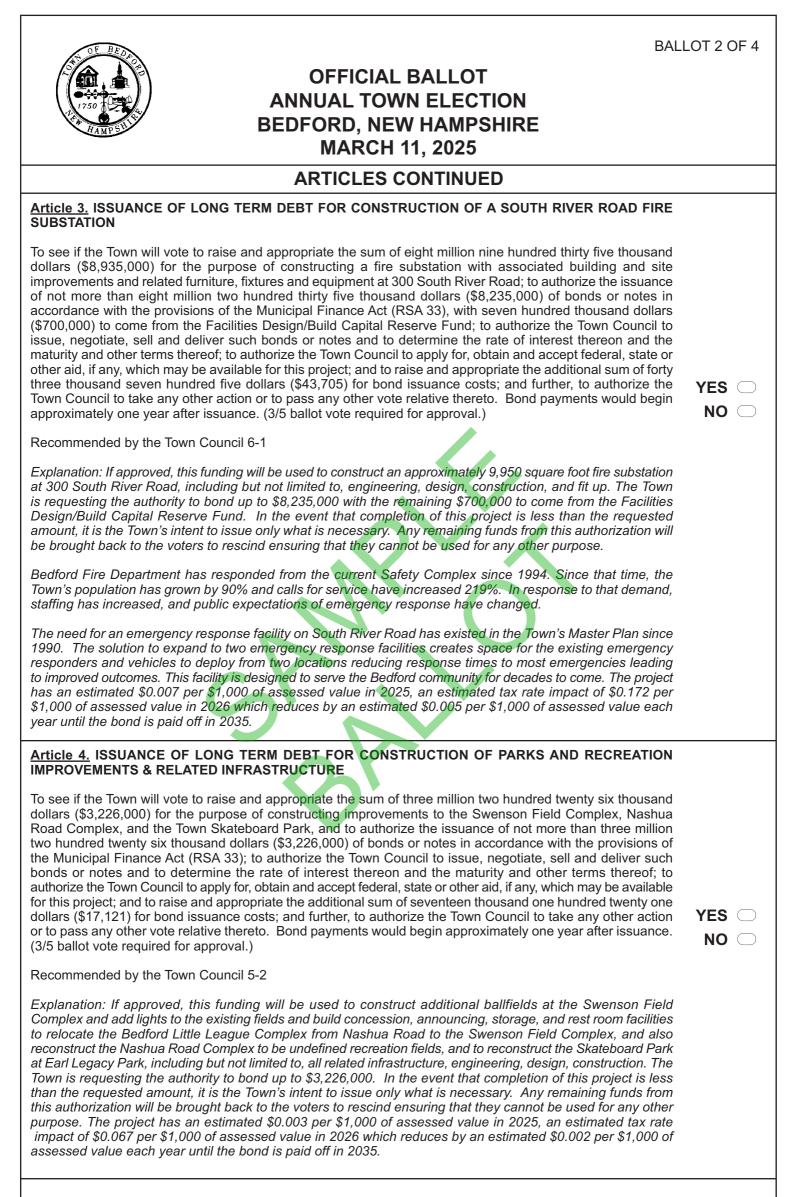
Amendment No. 4

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Bedford Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 275 of the Code of Ordinances, to create Article XV, Stream Protection Ordinance, including Sections 275-101 thru 275-108, as follows:

To create a Stream Protection Ordinance for the protection of Bedford's named streams and the establishment of a 50-foot non-disturbance vegetative buffer along either side of Bog Brook, Bowman Brook, McQuade Brook, McQuesten Brook, Patten Brook, Pointer Club Brook, Pulpit Brook, Riddle Brook, Sebbins Brook, and Baboosic Brook.

[This amendment is intended to protect named streams in Bedford, including Bog Brook, Bowman Brook, McQuade Brook, McQuesten Brook, Patten Brook, Pointer Club Brook, Pulpit Brook, Riddle Brook, Sebbins Brook, and Baboosic Brook, by establishing a 50-foot non-disturbance vegetative buffer along both sides of the named streams listed above. Existing structures, areas of disturbances and lawns would be grandfathered. The ordinance allows for the removal of damaged trees and construction of trails. Driveways, utilities, and stream crossings would be allowed by conditional use permit by the Planning Board. The complete text of the 5-page amendment is on file for public viewing at the Town Clerk's Office and on the Town's Website.]

GO TO NEXT BALLOT AND CONTINUE VOTING



TURN BALLOT OVER AND CONTINUE VOTING

ARTICLES CONTINUED

YES 🔿

YES 🔘

Article 5. SEBBINS POND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the purpose of completing a watershed management plan for Sebbins Pond, and to authorize the issuance of not more than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); to authorize the Town Council to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; to authorize the Town Council to apply for, obtain and accept a Clean Water State Revolving Fund for this project. Repayment of the loan funds will include up to 100% forgiveness of loan principal in an amount up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), to authorize the Town Council to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto? (3/5 ballot vote required for approval.)

Recommended by the Town Council 7-0

Explanation: If approved, the terms of the reference grant provide for 100% forgiveness of the loan principal for the development of a stormwater planning project that will address stormwater conveyance and treatment needs, and consider solutions that promote energy efficiency, water quality, climate resiliency and/or flood resiliency for Sebbins Pond. In the event that completion of this project is less than the requested amount, it is the Town's intent to issue only what is necessary. Any remaining funds from this authorization will be brought back to the voters to rescind ensuring that they cannot be used for any other purpose.

Article 6. 2025 OPERATING BUDGET

Shall the Town 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 therein, totaling thirty eight million eight hundred eighty eight thousand nine hundred nineteen dollars (\$38,888,919). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be thirty eight million three hundred forty six thousand six hundred forty eight dollars (\$38,346,648), 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. (Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.00/1,000 assessed property value over the 2024 rate of \$3.55) (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Town Council 6-1

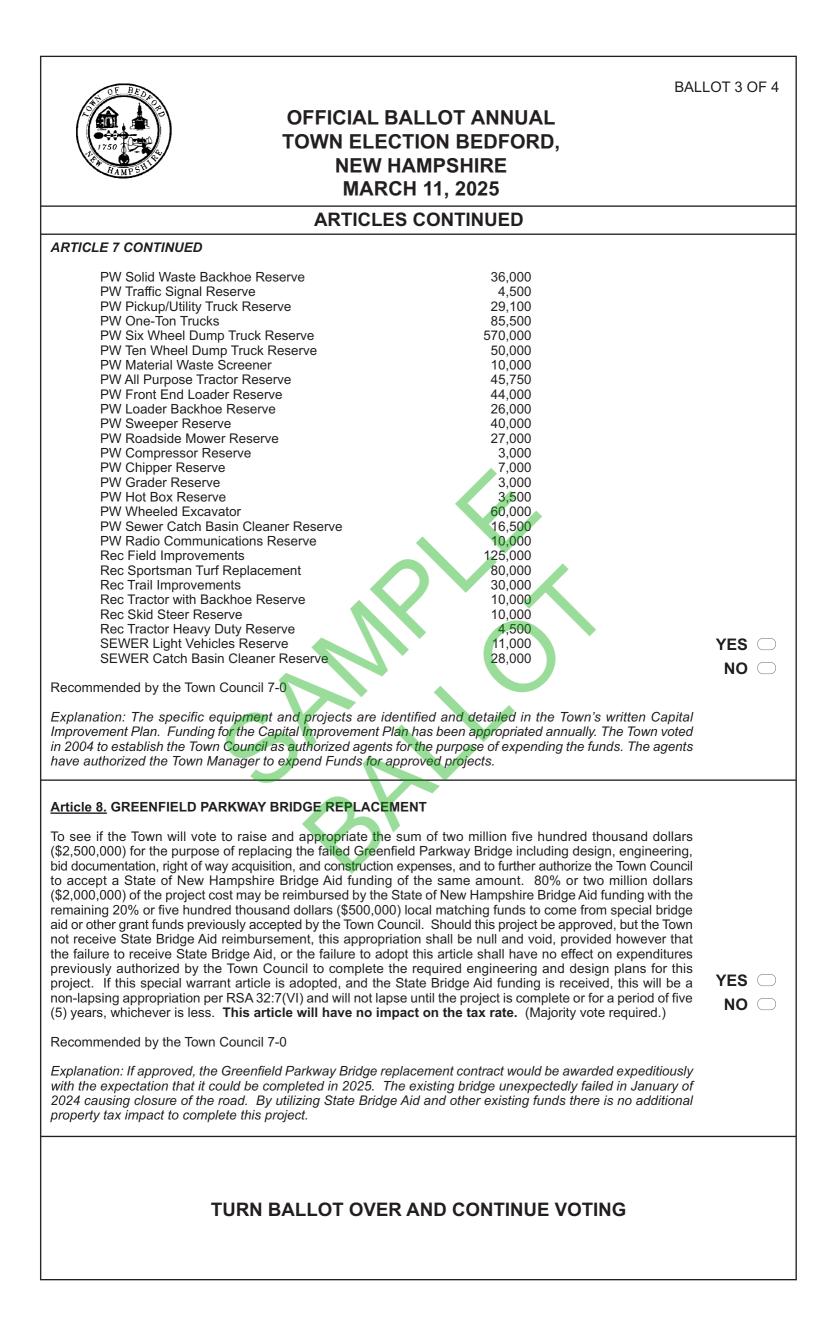
Article 7. CAPITAL RESERVE FUND – PROJECTS AND EQUIPMENT

Shall the Town raise and appropriate as a capital reserve budget, the amounts set forth in the warrant article, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling two million six hundred forty five thousand four hundred thirty dollars (\$2,645,430). Two million six hundred six thousand four hundred thirty dollars (\$2,606,430) to come from new taxation, thirty nine thousand dollars (\$39,000) to come from the Sewer fund. (Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.42/1,000 assessed property value) (Majority vote required.)

Assessment/Revaluation Reserve	38,000
Cemetery Reserve	55,000
Document Management Reserve	10,000
Facilities Town Office Building Reserve	10,000
Facilities Safety Complex Reserve	10,000
Facilities Transfer Station Improvements Reserve	25,000
Facilities Hwy Building Addition Reserve	25,000
Facilities BCTV Reserve	10,000
Facilities Library Reserve	25,000
Facilities Town Hall Reserve	10,000
Facilities Safety Complex Generator Reserve	5,000
Facilities Municipal Facility Improvements Reserve	20,000
Fire Ambulance Reserve	170,000
Fire Equipment Reserve	148,500
Fire Engine Reserve	275,000
Fire Ladder Truck Reserve	140,053
Fire Light Vehicle Reserve	51,677
Fire Public Fire Protection Water Supply	25,000
IT- Phone Replacement Reserve	17,000
IT Infrastructure Reserve	40,000
Planning Community Master Plan	18,000
Planning Impact Fee Update	2,800
PD Command Vehicle Reserve	13,350
PD Radio Console Reserve	50,000
PD Communications Network Reserve	30,000
PD Mobile Radios Reserve	14,500
PD Digital Evidence Platform (Body Warn Cameras)	13,500
PD Taser Equipment Reserve	10,000
PD Weapon Replacement Reserve	13,700

ARTICLE 7 CONTINUED ON NEXT BALLOT

GO TO NEXT BALLOT AND CONTINUE VOTING



ARTICLES CONTINUED

Article 9. BEALS ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three million dollars (\$3,000.000) for the purpose of replacing the Beals Road Bridge including engineering, bid documentation, right of way, and construction expenses, and to further authorize the Town Council to accept State of New Hampshire Bridge Aid funding and Federal Municipally Owned Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (MOBIL) funding of the same amount. 100% or two million seven hundred forty thousand dollars (\$2,740,000) of the construction costs and 80% or approximately two hundred eight thousand dollars (\$208,000) of the Engineering, Design, and Right-of-Way costs are eligible to be reimbursed by State of New Hampshire Bridge Aid funding and Federal MOBIL funding with the remaining 20% or fifty two thousand dollars (\$52,000) local matching funds to come from special Bridge Aid or other grant funds previously accepted by the Town Council. Bedford's share of this local match portion is 17% or approximately forty four thousand two hundred dollars (\$44,200) and Merrimack's share is 3% or approximately seven thousand eight hundred dollars (\$7,800). Should this project be approved, but the Town not receive State Bridge Aid and or MOBIL funding reimbursement, this appropriation shall be null and void, provided however that the failure to receive State Bridge Aid, or the failure to adopt this article shall have no effect on the expenditure previously authorized by the Town Council to complete required Engineering, Design plans and Right-of-Way acquisition for this project. If this special warrant article is adopted, and the State and Federal funding is received, this will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7(VI) and will not lapse until the project is complete or for a period of five (5) years, whichever is less. This article will have no impact on the tax rate. (Majority vote required.)

Recommended by the Town Council 7-0

Explanation: If approved, the Beals Road Bridge replacement contract would be awarded expeditiously with the expectation that it could be completed in 2025. The existing bridge has been programmed on the NHDOT's Red Listed Bridge List for many years. The Town of Merrimack is responsible for 15% of the 20% local match for the design, engineering, and right-of-way costs. By utilizing State Bridge Aid, Federal MOBIL funding, and other existing funds there is no property tax rate impact to complete this project.

Article 10. OLD BEDFORD ROAD SIDEWALK

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$670,000) for the purpose of construction of approximately 3,800 linear feet of new curbed sidewalk along Old Bedford Road from Route 101 to the Memorial Elementary School including design, engineering, bid documentation, right of way acquisition, and construction expenses, and to further authorize the Town Council to accept a State of New Hampshire Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funding of five hundred thirty six thousand dollars (\$536,000) which is 80% of the total budget. 80% or five hundred thirty six thousand dollars (\$536,000) of the costs may be reimbursed by the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funding with the remaining 20% or one hundred thirty four thousand dollars (\$134,000) local matching funds to come from developer fair share contributions provided for this purpose and local roads budgeted funds. Should this project be approved, but the Town not receive Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funding, this appropriation shall be null and void. If this special warrant article is adopted, and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funding is received, this will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7(VI) and will not lapse until the project is complete or for a period of five (5) years, whichever is less. This article will have no impact on the tax rate. (Majority vote required.)

Recommended by the Town Council 6-1

Explanation: If approved, a sidewalk would be built from Route 101 to the Memorial Elementary School utilizing State funds, developer funds, and local roads funding. The sidewalk is recommended in the Town's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. The developer funds will need to be returned should the project not move forward. By utilizing primarily State funding and developer funds there is no additional property tax impact to complete this project.

Article 11. ADDITIONAL LOCAL ROAD MAINTENANCE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) for the purpose of local road reconstruction and rehabilitation needed to maintain the current pavement condition index throughout town. (Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.06/1,000 assessed property value) (Majority vote required.)

YES 🔘

YES 🔾

YES 🔘

NO \bigcirc

Recommended by the Town Council 5-2

Explanation: If approved, this funding would supplement the \$1,500,000 proposed in the operating budget in line 10050772-57135 Local Road Reconstruction/Rehabilitation and is needed to maintain the current pavement condition index throughout town.

GO TO NEXT BALLOT AND CONTINUE VOTING

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OFFICIAL BALLOT ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION BEDFORD, **NEW HAMPSHIRE** MARCH 11, 2025

BALLOT 4 OF 4

ARTICLES CONTINUED			
Article 12. CAPITAL RESERVE FUND – FACILITIES POOL COMPLEX RESERVE			
Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred two thousand dollars (\$202,000) to be added to the Facilities Pool Complex Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum to come from fund balance and no amount is to be raised from taxation. (Estimated Tax Impact: None) (Majority vote required.)	YES O NO O		
Recommended by the Town Council 7-0			
Explanation: The Department of Public Works has determined that the Memorial Pool is in need of repair and may not be able to be opened in 2025 without major repairs. This deposit would be added to the \$48,000 already existing in the reserve to complete the estimated \$250,000 project.			
Article 13. DISCONTINUING POLICE RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CAPITAL RESERVE			
To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the Police Records Management System Capital Reserve Fund. Said fund and accumulated interest to date of withdrawal are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. (Majority vote required.)	YES O NO O		
Recommended by the Town Council 7-0			
Explanation: The project has been completed and this vote is required to close the fund.			
Article 14. DISCONTINUING BCTV CABLECAST SYSTEM CAPITAL RESERVE	YES 🔿		
To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the BCTV Cablecast System Capital Reserve Fund. Said fund and accumulated interest to date of withdrawal are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. (Majority vote required.)			
Recommended by the Town Council 7-0			
Explanation: The project has been completed and this vote is required to close the fund.			
Article 15. COMMUNITY POWER AGGREGATION To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Bedford Community Power Electric Aggregation plan, to authorize the Town Council to implement the plan, and to take all action in furtherance thereof, pursuant to RSA 53-E. The Bedford Community Power Electric Aggregation plan is an opt-out program that offers more flexible electricity procurement. The plan will initially provide lower electricity rates for residents, or it will not launch. Initial participation in the plan can be declined, after which enrollment becomes voluntary. Residents using Eversource as their default electricity supplier will be switched to Bedford Community Power Plan unless they specifically take action to opt-out. This article will have no impact on the tax rate. (Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Town Council 7-0 Explanation: Community Power allows the Town to purchase electric energy supply on behalf of their residents and business with the goals of lowering costs, allowing for more local control of energy sources, expanding access to renewable energy sources, supporting the development of innovative energy projects. Property owners with existing third-party energy supply contracts or solar installations will not be moved to Bedford Community Power. Property owners can opt out either before or after Bedford Community Power will be self-funded by the rates paid by participating customers.	YES O NO O		
YOU HAVE NOW COMPLETED VOTING THIS BALLOT			