

# THE BEDFORD TAXPAYER

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

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Special Edition for March 11, 2025

March 2025

## VOTE March 11!

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

### SCHOOL DISTRICT:

#### **Article 01: ELECTION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICERS - SCHOOL BOARD.**

BTA endorses ANDREA CAMPBELL for School Board for a 3-year term. She just finished her first 3-year service. She has experience teaching in our Bedford schools, and is aware of the challenges to funding needs versus wants. **Vote Campbell (X)**

**Article 02: SPECIAL WARRANT ARTICLE - FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN.** This proposal fails to show the loss of funding for our existing half day kindergarten program, plus adding a minimum of seven teachers plus paraprofessionals, depending on final enrollment. The cost will be far more than stated, likely more than a \$million. Most studies do not show any academic advancement for those attending all day kindergarten over half day students, or those who start in first grade. This expensive babysitting service is a want, not a need. **Vote NO (X)**

#### **Article 03: NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT WITH PROFESSIONAL STAFF.**

This funds the very fair BSD agreement with BEA Staff for 3 years. **Vote YES (X)**

**Articles 04: CONDITIONAL ARTICLE. Stupid and wasteful. **Vote NO (X)****

**Article 05: OPERATING BUDGET -** Projected cost is **\$90.909,204**. The default budget is **\$89,830,712, which is a savings of over a \$million and 18 cents less** per \$1000 of tax impact. Since the number of students has been dropping steadily since 2018, and is now over **500 less**, it makes no sense to keep adding more staff and spending more money. Defeating the Operating Budget, and living with the Default Budget will not cause any education program cuts. All staff salaries and raises are included, as well as special education costs. There is no possibility that it will be inadequate even for unexpected costs. **Vote NO (X)**

**Article 06: PETITION WARRANT ARTICLE-** This proposed tax cap was a good idea, but the wording was sabotaged at the Deliberative Session, to change the entire meaning to be useless. The Petitioners will try again next year. **Vote NO (X)**

# TOWN:

## Article 1: ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICES

**TOWN COUNCIL.** BTA endorses Gail Levesque and Kathleen Bemiss. Gail has lived in Bedford for 26 years, working 18 of those at IBM managing people and budgets. Married for 50 years, Gail has grandchildren in our schools, and is concerned about all spending in Bedford. As an older woman, she will bring a new perspective and balance to the Council. Kathleen has been on the Council for 3 years. **Vote Levesque and Bemiss (X)**

## Article 2: ZONING AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY THE PLANNING BOARD.

**Amendment 1** is to comply with state standards. **Vote Yes (X)**

**Amendments 2 & 3** change the character of Bedford to be city like. **Vote You Decide (X)**

**Amendment 4** infringes on existing property owner's rights with no stated benefit or purpose. **Vote No (X)**

## Article 3: ISSUENCE OF LONG TERM DEBT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A SOUTH RIVER

**ROAD FIRE SUBSTATION.** This is a premature and incomplete proposed 10 Year Bond for a 40 year Facility, which ignores the cost of obvious required renovations so that the Police Station can remain in the Existing Safety Center. **Vote No (X)**

## Article 4: ISSUENCE OF LONG TERM DEBT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PARKS AND RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE.

There is no logical reason for taxpayers to fund anything for private little leagues. **Vote No (X)**

## Article 5: SEBBINS POND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.

This is a need, due to flooding and pollution. **Vote Yes (X)**

**Article 6: 2025 OPERATING BUDGET.** The total for the Proposed Operating Budget is \$38,888,919. The default is \$38,346,648, which is adequate. **Vote No (X)**

## Article 7: CAPITAL RESERVE FUND – PROJECTS AND EQUIPMENT.

BTA would like to know what the interest is on this 2.6 million savings account, but it is consistent with prior years and necessary **Vote Yes (X)**

**Articles 8 & 9: GREENFIELD PARKWAY BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AND BEALS ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT.** Both of these are needed. **Vote Yes (X)**

**Article 10: OLD BEDFORD ROAD SIDEWALK.** No cost to taxpayers. **Vote Yes (X)**

**Article 11: ADDITIONAL LOCAL ROAD MAINTENANCE.** Excessive. **Vote No (X)**

## Article 12: CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FACILITIES POOL COMPLEX.

Adding funds to the existing reserve will enable repairs, which are needed for the severely deteriorating Town Swimming Pool. No cost to taxpayers. **Vote Yes (X)**

## Articles 13 & 14: DISCONTINUING POLICE RECORDS & BCTV CAPITAL RESERVE.

Funds have already been moved to the General Town Fund. **Vote Yes (X)**

**Article 15: COMMUNITY POWER AGGREGATION.** Adoption of this plan will not affect our taxes and is completely voluntary. It should lower electric bills. **Vote Yes (X)**

# 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 36 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 **\$4500** 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.***

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### ***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**

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## **IMPORTANT VOTING NOTICE**

**Town/School District Elections**  
**Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 7am to 7pm**  
**Bedford High School Gymnasium**  
**Sample Ballots Available -**  
**Online and at Town Office**

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

# **IMPORTANT! VOTE March 11!**

## **TOWN:**

**Article 1 - Vote Levesque & Bemiss for Town Council**

**Article 2 - Zoning Amendment 1 - Vote Yes**

**Amendments 2 & 3 - Vote You Decide, Amendment 4 - Vote No.**

**Article 3 - Fire Substation - Vote No.**

**Article 4 - Little league Fields - Vote No.**

**Article 5 - Sebbins Pond - Vote Yes.**

**Article 6 - Operating Budget - Vote No.**

**Article 7 - Capital Reserve Fund - Vote Yes.**

**Articles 8 & 9 - Bridge Replacements - Vote Yes.**

**Article 10 – Sidewalk - Vote Yes.**

**Article 11 - Additional Paving - Vote No.**

**Article 12 - Swimming Pool Vote - Yes**

**Article 13 - Police Records - Vote Yes**

**Article 14 - BCTV Cablecast - Vote Yes**

**Article 15 - Community Power Aggregation - Vote Yes**

## **SCHOOL DISTRICT:**

**Article 01 - School Board - Vote Campbell**

**Article 02 - All Day Kindergarten - Vote No**

**Articles 03 - NEGOTIATED Agreement - Vote Yes**

**Article 05 - OPERATING BUDGET - Vote No**