

# THE BEDFORD TAXPAYER

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

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Special Edition for March 10, 2026

March 2026

## VOTE March 10!

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 KEVIN COVENTRY for School Board for a 1 year term. He has lived in Bedford for 12 years, has 3 children, and is very concerned with academic excellence. But, he also wants to cut spending which has gone out of control. He is aware of the challenges to funding needs versus wants. He initiated the recount last year on full day kindergarten which won by only 12 votes, and will now cost the taxpayers \$1.7million, for a glorified babysitting service (a want). **Vote Coventry (X)**

#### Article 02: NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT WITH CUSTODIAL & MAINTENANCE STAFF

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

#### Article 04: NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT WITH INSTRUCTIONAL TEACHING ASSISTANTS, SECRETARIES, CLERKS, & FOOD SERVICE

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

#### Article 06: OPERATING BUDGET –

Proposed cost is **\$97,809,732** while last year's cost was only **\$90,909,204. That is Insanity!** The default budget is a farce at **\$97,136,083. only \$773,121. less.** The number of students has been dropping steadily since 2018, and is now only 3969, so it makes no sense to keep adding more staff and spending more money. BSD now has 302 full time classroom Teachers (1 per 13 students) plus 135 paraprofessionals to help them, plus 14 reading tutors, 5 math tutors, 7 speech pathologists, 6 speech assistants, 5 behavioral specialists, 4 psychologists, 6 digital learning specialists, 7 library assistants, 2 occupational therapists, 2 OT assistants, 2 drug & alcohol counselors, 2 social workers, 2 social service coordinators. There are also a Superintendent, an assistant superintendent, 6 Principals, 8 assistant principals, 4 Deans, 7 Directors, 6 different coordinators for IB, IT support, out of district, transportation, special services & preschool. There are teachers for health, phys ed, resource, social science, special education, enrichment, & a theater manager. In total the Bedford School system has 692 adult employees for 3969 students (1 per 5 to 6 students). **This is Insanity, just as we said about the \$7 million increase for this year's Budget. It is imperative that voters ask themselves why would we possibly want this???** and **Vote NO NO NO (X)**

Then BTA recommends that voters demand the School Board hold a Special Meeting as allowed by law, to rethink and revise our Staffing and Budget drastically.

# TOWN:

## Article 1: ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICES, TOWN COUNCIL.

BTA endorses Bill Carter & Laura Fahey for a 3 year term and John Bator for a 2 year term. Bill has been on the Council for 6 years. Laura is a data analyst who teaches American Government at SNHU. As Bedford residents for 23 years, she & her husband, a retired fireman, are supporters of conservative causes. John is a 27 year Bedford resident with his wife of 36 years & 2 sons. He is a CPA & retired CFO who has served on the Boards of over 40 companies, currently as the Treasurer of Manchester Country Club.

**Vote Carter, Fahey, & Bator (X)**

## Article 2.1 – 2.9: ZONING AMENDMENTS PROPOSED BY THE PLANNING BOARD & by CITIZENS' PETITION.

BTA supports all 9 Zoning Amendments, because they are clearly explained and make sense. They deserve your support.

**Vote Yes (X)**

## Article 3: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT- FIRE.

A fair agreement between the Town Council & Bedford Professional Firefighters for 3 years.

**Vote Yes (X)**

## Article 5: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT- POLICE.

A fair agreement between the Town Council & Bedford Police Union for 3 years.

**Vote Yes (X)**

## Article 7: 2026 OPERATING BUDGET.

The Town Council worked hard to keep this number to less than \$1 million over last year. It deserves your support.

**Vote Yes (X)**

## Article 8: CAPITAL RESERVE FUND – PROJECTS AND EQUIPMENT.

BTA would like to know what the interest is on this 1.8 \$million savings account, but it is consistent with prior years and necessary.

**Vote Yes (X)**

## Article 9: CAPITAL RESERVE FUND – BCTV EQUIPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE FUND.

Needed to modernize technical capabilities of BCTV & WBNH.

**Vote Yes (X)**

## Article 10: DISCONTINUING IT LICENSING SOFTWARE CAPITAL RESERVE.

Project is complete so fund needs to close.

**Vote Yes (X)**

## Article 11: CITIZEN PETITIONED ARTICLE.

TO REBUILD A SKATE BOARD PARK. THIS IS A WANT, NOT A NEED. Excessive.

**Vote No (X)**

## Articles 12 & 13: KENO GAMES AND GAMES OF CHANCE.

Shall we prohibit Keno Games and Games of Chance in Bedford?

**Vote Yes (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 37 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 due\$ could \$ave you hundred\$ of dollar\$ a year in taxe\$!**

**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 10, 2026, 7am to 7pm**  
**Bedford High School Gymnasium**  
**Sample Ballots Available -**  
**Online and at the Town Office**

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

# **IMPORTANT! VOTE March 10!**

## **TOWN:**

- Article 1 - Vote Carter, Fahey, & Bator for Town Council**
- Article 2 - Zoning Amendments All (2.1 - 2.9) - Vote Yes.**
- Article 3 - Collective Bargaining Agreement Fire - Vote Yes.**
- Article 5 - Collective Bargaining Agreement Police – Vote Yes.**
- Article 7 - Operating Budget – Vote Yes.**
- Article 8 - Capital Reserve Fund Projects & Equip.– Vote Yes.**
- Article 9 - Capital Reserve Fund BCTV - Vote Yes.**
- Article 10 - Discontinuing IT Licensing Reserve –Vote Yes.**
- Article 11 - Rebuild Skateboard Park – Vote No.**
- Article 12 - Prohibit Operation of KENO Games – Vote Yes.**
- Article 13 - Prohibit Operation of Games of Chance –Vote Yes.**

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## **SCHOOL DISTRICT:**

- Article 1 - School Board - Vote Coventry**
- Article 2 - NEGOTIATED Agreement Custodial – Vote Yes**
- Article 4 - NEGOTIATED Agreement TA, Clerk, Sec. –Vote Yes**
- Article 6 - OPERATING BUDGET - Vote No No No !**