



NORWICH SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPOSED ARTICLES



TOWN DELIBERATIVE SESSION, Monday, February 28th, 7:00 p.m.

ALL DAY VOTING Tuesday, March 1st, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Tracy Hall, 300 Main Street, Norwich, VT

2022-23 Warning Articles & Explanations

ARTICLE 1: Elect a Moderator of the Town and School District meeting for one year.

The moderator is voted upon annually and presides over town meeting.

ARTICLE 2: Elect Town and School District Officers for terms starting in 2022.

School district officer positions are voted upon annually. There are five Norwich School Board positions; four are staggered three-year terms and one is a two-year term. All positions also serve on the Dresden School Board, however the two-year position does not hold voting privileges in Dresden. This year there are 2 seats coming up for election in March. One seat is a two-year term and one seat is a 3-year term.

ARTICLE 3: Hear and act on the reports of the officers of the Town and Town School District.,

Each year the Norwich School District presents the proposed budget to the voters at Town Meeting. In odd numbered years the School District presents first, in even numbered years the Town presents first.

ARTICLE 4: To authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year in accordance with the provisions of 16 VSA § 562(9).

In the event that school district tax revenues are not received in a timely manner, the school district requests authorization from the electorate to borrow money to cover necessary expenditures.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District determine and fix the salaries of the School Board members in the sum of \$500 each per year for a total of \$2,500 in accordance with the provisions of 16 VSA § 562(5)?

The salary for school board members is voted upon annually. This figure is unchanged from last year.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District approve the school board to expend \$6,618,680 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing 2022-23 fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$20,845 per equalized pupil (this includes the current proposed Dresden assessment for 7-12th grade). This projected spending per equalized pupil is 9.54% higher than spending for the current year.

While the budget number shown above is solely for the Marion Cross School, the Education Spending Per Equalized Pupil includes the Dresden Assessment. While the gross

expenditure amount of the Marion Cross School budget is increasing by 6.65%; the state's definition of net "Education Spending per Pupil" (that is, net education spending, after the application of appropriate income, divided by the number of equalized pupils) is increasing by 9.54%. This is the result of an increase in the 2022-23 budgeted Dresden District assessment to Norwich of \$891,606, an increase of 12.19% coupled with a notable change affecting this year's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) which is experiencing another significant drop from 90.28% down to 84.39%. The CLA drop is resulting in an increase to the tax rate of \$0.1246. Other differences include changes in the base (homestead) property yield from \$11,317 to \$12,937 which is helping to mitigate some of the CLA increase. There is a potential drop in the equalized pupils count as they are no longer freezing the numbers at 2019-2020 levels although we have not received the final numbers, we are using last year's count of 632.98 modified by a decrease in the formula percentage. All of these changes combined result in an early estimated homestead tax rate of \$1.9093 or a \$0.0468 cent increase, which is 2.51% more than the current year's rate of \$1.8625. This rate projection does not include the potential increases for any additional ratified warrant articles. Several of the parameters are set by the State of Vermont throughout early Spring. Certainly changes in the yield and/or equalized pupil count will alter the tax rate estimate presented. An estimated homestead tax rate of \$1.9093 would result in a tax rate increase of \$187 on a \$400,000 home.

ARTICLE 8: Transact any other business that may legally come before the annual meeting of the Norwich Town School District.

Articles adopted the ___th day of January, 2022.

Tom Candon, Chair

Lisa Christie

Neil Odell

Garrett Palm

Lily Trajman

Potential Additional Articles:

ARTICLE __: Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District appropriate \$25,000.00, to be deposited in the District's Reserve Fund for Repairs and Capital Maintenance?

ARTICLE __: Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District authorize any cumulative surplus existing on June 30 in excess of \$xxx,xxx be placed in the Reserve Fund for Repairs/Capital Maintenance?