

EXETER TOWN WARRANT – 2026

To the inhabitants of the Town of Exeter, in the County of Rockingham, in the said State, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

First Session

You are hereby notified that the first session (the Deliberative Session) of the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2026, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Arthur L. Hanson III Center for the Performing Arts at Exeter High School, 1 Blue Hawk Drive. The first session will consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of each of the following warrant articles, and will also afford voters who are present the opportunity to propose, debate, and adopt amendments to warrant articles, except those articles in which wording is prescribed by state law.

Second Session

The second session of the Annual Town Meeting, to elect Town officers by official ballot and to vote on all warrant articles as they may have been amended at the first session, will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at the Talbot Gymnasium at the Tuck Learning Center, 30 Linden Street. Polls for voting by official ballot will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

Article 1 (Election Article)

To choose the following: 2 Select Board members for a 3-year term; 1 Town Clerk for a 3-year term; 1 Supervisor of the Checklist for a 6-year term; 1 Swasey Parkway Trustee for a 3-year term; 1 Trustee of the Trust Fund for a 3-year term; 1 Robinson Fund Trustee for a 7-year term; 3 Library Trustees for a 3-year term.

Article 2 – Zoning Amendment #1:

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Exeter Zoning Ordinance to amend Article 2 Definitions by deleting 2.2.3 Accessory Dwelling Unit and replacing it with the newly-enacted statutory definition that expands the definition of Accessory Dwelling Units by adding specific definitions for Attached Units and Detached Units as required by recent statutory changes?

Recommended by the Planning Board: 7-0

Article 3 – Zoning Amendment #2:

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Exeter Zoning Ordinance to amend Article 5, Section 5.6.6 by reducing the number of required residential parking spaces from two (2) to one (1) as required by recent statutory changes?

Recommended by the Planning Board: 7-0

Article 4 – Zoning Amendment #3:

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Exeter Zoning Ordinance to amend Section 9.3.4.I. of Shoreland Protection Ordinance by adding the following new permitted use:

I.7 Projects that re-vegetate or re-vitalize in some way an already disturbed buffer zone, as reviewed and approved by the Planning and Building Department?

Recommended by the Planning Board: 7-0

Article 5 – Zoning Amendment #4:

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment #4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Exeter Zoning Ordinance to amend Article 4 - District Regulations, 4.2 Schedule 1: Permitted Uses, by changing animal boarding/kennels from a permitted use in District C-2, C-3, and CT-1 to a use allowed by Special Exception?

Recommended by the Planning Board: 7-0

Article 6 – Surface Water Treatment Plant Design and Engineering Phase II (\$2,000,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) for the purpose of phase II design and engineering of a new surface water treatment plant including evaluation for cost saving measures and alternatives, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$2,000,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other items thereof; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain, accept, and expend federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project and to comply with all laws applicable to such project; and further to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or pass any other vote relative thereto. Without impairing the general obligation nature of the bonds or notes, it is anticipated that debt

service will be paid from the water fund. Bond payments would begin approximately one year after issuance.

(3/5 ballot vote required for approval.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 7 – Water Treatment Plant Residuals Disposal (\$500,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for the purpose of Water Treatment Plant Residuals Disposal, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$500,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Select Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other items thereof; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, obtain, accept, and expend federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project and to comply with all laws applicable to such project; and further to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or pass any other vote relative thereto. Without impairing the general obligation nature of the bonds or notes, it is anticipated that debt service will be paid from the water fund. Bond payments would begin approximately one year after issuance.

(3/5 ballot vote required for approval.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 8 – Nitrogen Reduction Program - Equipment Purchase of Street Sweeper (\$412,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred twelve thousand dollars (\$412,000) for the purpose of enhancing the Nitrogen Reduction Program by purchasing a new street sweeper to be used to meet EPA nitrogen reduction permit requirements and to implement an enhanced sweeping program, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$412,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and further to authorize the Select Board 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; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, accept, obtain, and expend federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project and to comply with all laws applicable to such project; and further to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. Debt service to be paid from the general fund. (Estimated Tax Impact: $FY_1=\$0.03$; $FY_2=\$0.03$, $FY_3=\$0.03$; $FY_4=\$0.03$; $FY_5=\$0.02$ per \$1,000 assessed valuation. Based on the Town's 2025 net valuation of

\$3,501,043,853, which may vary in future years. Assumes a 5-year bond at 3.24% interest). Bond payments would begin approximately one year after issuance.

(3/5 ballot vote required for approval.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 9 – Choose Town Officers

To choose all other necessary Town Officers, Auditors or Committees for the ensuing year.

Article 10 – 2026 General Fund Operating Budget

Shall the Town of Exeter 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 \$27,325,353. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$26,863,334, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter 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: .67/\$1,000 assessed property value, \$67/\$100,000 assessed property value).

(Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 11 – 2026 Water Fund Budget

Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as a water 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 \$4,696,505. Should this article be defeated, the water default budget shall be \$4,664,300, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law.

(Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 12 – 2026 Sewer Fund Budget

Shall the Town of Exeter raise and appropriate as a sewer 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 \$8,286,840. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$8,210,020, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Exeter or by law.

(Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 13 – Replace Dump Truck #52 (\$85,000)

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of eighty-five thousand dollars (\$85,000), for the purpose of purchasing a replacement for the DPW Dump Truck #52, purchased in 2012. This vehicle is a frontline snow-fighting truck in the winter and is driven daily as a crew support vehicle for Highway Department operations year-round. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation).

(Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 14 – Replace Fire Car #2 (\$67,194)

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of sixty-seven thousand one hundred and ninety-four dollars (\$67,194), for the purpose of purchasing a replacement for the Fire Department Car #2, purchased in 2014. This vehicle is used as a command vehicle. It contains firefighting, EMS, and command equipment, and responds as a single resource during periods of high call volume to provide immediate assistance. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation).

(Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 15 – Appropriate to Expendable Trust Fund - Sick Leave (\$100,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be added to the Sick Leave Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation).

(Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 16 – Appropriate to Non-Capital Reserve Fund – Snow and Ice Deficit (\$75,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to be added to the Snow and Ice Deficit Non-Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation).

(Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 17 – Appropriate to Capital Reserve Fund – ADA Fund (\$25,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the ADA Non-Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation).

(Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 18 – Appropriate to Expendable Trust Fund – Swasey Parkway (\$3,468)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand four hundred sixty-eight dollars (\$3,468) to be added to the Swasey Parkway Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from unassigned fund balance. This amount is equivalent to the amount of permit fees collected during 2025 for use of the Swasey Parkway. (Estimated Tax Impact: None. No amount to be raised by taxation).

(Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 19 – Create the Exeter Public Library Infrastructure Expendable Trust Fund (\$25,000)

To see if the Town will vote to establish the Exeter Public Library Infrastructure Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for the purpose of maintenance, repairs and other infrastructure projects of the Exeter Public Library building and grounds and to raise and appropriate twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in this fund and further to name the Library Trustees as agents to expend from said fund. The amount to come from general taxation; (Estimated Tax Impact: \$.007/\$1,000 assessed property value, \$.71/\$100,000 assessed property value)

(Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 20 – Pedestrian Improvements at Front St./ Railroad Ave. Intersection (\$1,334,939)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, through special warrant article, the sum of one million three hundred thirty four thousand nine hundred thirty nine dollars (\$1,334,939) for the purpose of constructing a new sidewalk on Railroad Ave, re-constructing the Front St/Railroad Ave intersection, replacing the existing "painted" sidewalks on Front Street, and installing a user activated rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) at the crosswalk. These improvements will enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety, connect residential and commercial uses, and make the area accessible to all users. This project is contingent upon receiving Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds in the amount of 80% of the funding (\$1,067,951) with the Town of Exeter to be responsible for the remaining 20% (\$266,988). This amount to come from general taxation; and further to authorize the Select Board to apply for, accept and expend federal, state or other aid, if any, including principal forgiveness, which may become available for this project and to comply with all laws applicable to such project; and further to authorize the Select Board to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. (Estimated Tax Impact: \$.076/\$1,000 assessed property value, \$.76/\$100,000 assessed property value)

(Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 21 – Lead Service Line Replacement Inventory (\$173,000)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred seventy three thousand dollars (\$173,000) for the purpose of identifying approximately two hundred and eighteen (218) water service connections to work towards meeting the requirements of the EPA-required Lead and Copper Rule(LCRR). To meet the requirements of the LCRR, 2,173 service connections designated as unknown must be identified within 10 years of the submission of the initial inventory, or by 2034. This sum to come from the water fund.

(Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 22 – Modify Optional Service Connected Total Disability Credit

Shall the town increase the RSA 72:35 optional tax credit on residential property for veterans with a Service-Connected Total Disability from \$2,000 to \$2,500? Pursuant to a new law effective April 1, 2026, veterans who receive this credit are no longer eligible to receive any other veterans related tax credits.

(Majority vote required) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 23 – Modify the Elderly Exemption From Property Tax

Shall the Town modify the provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Exeter, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 74 years, \$198,000 (previously \$152,250); for a person 75 years of age up to 79 years, \$238,000, (previously \$183,250); for a person 80 years of age or older \$307,000, (previously \$236,250)? To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married to each other for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$43,000 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$55,000; and own net assets not in excess of \$194,251 excluding the value of the person's residence.

(Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 24 – Modify the Exemption for the Blind

Shall the Town modify the provisions of RSA 72:37, Exemption for the Blind, to allow an inhabitant who is legally blind as determined by the blind services program, to be exempt each year on the assessed value, for property tax purposes, of his or her residential real estate to the value of \$25,000 an increase from the previously approved exemption amount of \$15,000?

(Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 25 – Adopt the All Veterans' Tax Credit

Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, All Veterans' Tax Credit? If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident, who (1) served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from services and is not eligible for or receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. If adopted, the credit granted will be \$500, the same amount as the standard or optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town of Exeter under RSA 72:28.

(Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 26 – Add an alternate member to the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee

To see if the Town will amend the membership of the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee, established by Article 20 of the 2011 Town Meeting and Article 22 of the 2024 Town Meeting,

by adding one alternate member so that the Committee will now consist of five (5) members, two of whom are Selectboard members, and one (1) alternate.

(Majority vote required.) Recommended by the Select Board 5-0.

Article 27 - Citizens' Petition

Shall the Town vote to award veterans in the town of Exeter \$750 credit off their property tax such as what is awarded in the towns of Dover; Newmarket; Portsmouth; Kingston; East Kingston; Barrington and others.

(Majority Vote Required) Recommended by the Select Board 0-0-5.

Article 28 - Citizens' Petition

New Hampshire communities value strong public schools and responsible use of public funds for education. Therefore, the voters of Exeter, New Hampshire, are asked:

Shall we call on our legislators to protect taxpayers by requiring the Education Freedom Account program to provide fiscal and educational performance reports comparable to those required of public schools, and by limiting eligibility to families with demonstrated financial need?

This question is raised because state legislators recently removed all income limits from the Education Freedom Account program (vouchers), expanding it beyond its original purpose. These changes added tens of millions of dollars in costs, while the program provides limited public information on how funds are spent or if educational standards are being met.

The voucher program is projected to cost \$110 million over the next two years with no new revenue sources identified. This directs public funds to private education without reducing the expenses public schools are constitutionally required to cover, increasing pressure on local property taxes.

Be it further resolved that the Exeter Select Board shall send the results of this vote to the Governor and all members of the General Court representing Exeter within thirty (30) days of this vote.

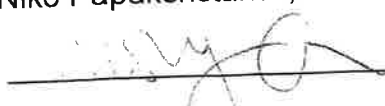
(Majority Vote Required)

Article 29

To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.



Niko Papakonstantis, Chair




Molly Cowan, Vice Chair



Nancy Belanger, Clerk



Julie D. Gilman



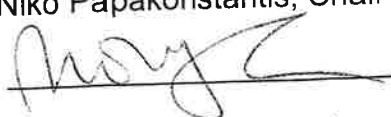
Daniel W. Chartrand

We certify that on the 25th day of January, 2026, we caused a true copy of the within warrant to be posted at the Exeter Town Hall on Front Street, the Exeter Public Library at Founder's Park, Exeter High School at 1 Blue Hawk Drive, Talbot Gymnasium at Tuck Learning Campus, 40 Linden Street, and the Town Clerk's Office, 10 Front Street.

Given under our hands and seal this 25th day of January, 2026.




Niko Papakonstantis, Chair



Molly Cowan, Vice Chair



Nancy Belanger, Clerk



Julie D. Gilman



Daniel W. Chartrand