

TOWN WARRANT 2022

TO: Mary F. McDonald, citizen of the Town of Georgetown, Maine, GREETINGS:

You are hereby required in the name of the State of Maine to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Georgetown, Maine, qualified to vote in Town affairs, according to the Constitution and laws of this State, to assemble at Georgetown Central School, Georgetown Center, on **Tuesday, the fourteenth day of June, 2022 at 8am through 8pm and again on Saturday, the eighteenth day of June, 2022 beginning at 10am**, to act on the following articles:

Art. 1. To elect by ballot a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

Art. 2. To elect by ballot a Town Clerk for a term ending at the closing of the Town books, June 30, 2023.

Art. 3. To elect by ballot a Selectman for a term ending at the 2025 Annual Town Meeting.

Art. 4. To elect by ballot a Treasurer for a term ending at the closing of the Town books, June 30, 2023.

Art. 5. To elect by ballot a Tax Collector for a term ending at the closing of the Town books, June 30, 2023.

Art. 6. To elect by ballot a member of the School Committee for a term ending at the 2025 Annual Town Meeting.

Art. 7. To elect by ballot a member of the Town-Owned Property Management Board for a term ending at the 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

Art. 8. To elect by ballot a member of the Town-Owned Property Management Board for a term ending at the 2025 Annual Town Meeting.

Art. 9. To elect by ballot a Cemetery District Trustee for a term ending at the 2025 Annual Town Meeting.

Art. 10. To elect by ballot a Road Commissioner for a term ending at the 2025 Annual Town Meeting.

Articles 1 through 10 will be voted on Tuesday, June 14, between 8am and 8pm, with the remaining articles addressed on Saturday, June 18, beginning at 10am.

Art. 11. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following: (A) in regard to collection of taxes: Taxes shall become due and payable sixty days from the date printed on the bill, and interest at the rate of four (4) percent per annum will be charged on all accounts not paid by the due date; and (B) in regard to abatement of taxes: Interest at the rate of two (2) percent per annum will be applied to all accounts from the date the taxes were paid until the overpayment is repaid.

Art. 12. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the consent of the Board of Selectmen, to procure a temporary loan or loans in anticipation of taxes for the purpose of paying obligations of the Town, such loan or loans to be paid during the municipal year out of money raised by taxes during that municipal year.

Art. 13. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes on such terms as they deem advisable and to execute quitclaim deeds on the same.

Art. 14. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of Town owned personal property valued at \$2,000 or less under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

Art. 15. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of the Selectmen to accept and expend such additional funds as various Town bodies may receive from government or private grants or similar block-funding gifts and donations, provided that funding does not trigger the expenditure of additional local funds not previously appropriated by the voters.

Art. 16. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal Treasurer, upon direction from the Board of Selectmen, to waive the foreclosure of a Tax Lien Mortgage by recording a Waiver of Foreclosure in the Registry of Deeds in which the Tax Lien Certificate is recorded, prior to the right of redemption expiring, pursuant to 36 MRSA § 944.

Art. 17. To see if the Town will vote to change the office of Town Treasurer from elected by the voters to appointed by the Select Board, effective commencing July 1, 2023.

Art. 18. To see if the Town will vote to remit to the Town Code Enforcement Officer, Town Clerk, and Tax Collector fees collected by these respective individuals in the form of wages.

Art. 19. To see if the Town will vote to use anticipated revenues, regardless of source, except as prohibited by law, to reduce the mil rate.

Art. 20. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate from Undesignated Fund Balance an amount not to exceed \$10,000 to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that may occur during the next fiscal year.

Art. 21. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to join with other participating municipal and quasi-municipal employers in a Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangement for the provision of employee health benefits, as authorized by 24-A MRSA §6601 et seq., said Arrangement to be known as the "Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust" (Health Trust); and for that purpose and in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements among participating employers, to authorize the Select Board to enter into a Participation Agreement on behalf of the Town and take whatever other actions may be necessary. The authority granted herein shall continue until revoked.

Art. 22. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of any unexpended funds, budgeted for the purpose of Employee Health Benefits, at the end of FY 2022-23 to a Health Benefits Reserve Fund. (The Health Benefits Reserve fund balance is currently \$0).

NEW ORDINANCE

Art. 23. To see if the Town will vote to approve adoption of a Solar Energy Ordinance. (Copies of the proposed ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

ORDINANCES

Art. 24. To see if the Town will vote to approve amendments to the Building/Demolition Permit Ordinance. (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

Art. 25. To see if the Town will vote to approve amendments to the Minimum Lot Size Ordinance. (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

Art. 26. To see if the Town will vote to approve amendments to the Shellfish Conservation Ordinance. (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

Art. 27. To see if the Town will vote to approve amendments to the Wireless Communications Facilities Ordinance. (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Art. 28. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the proposed revisions to the Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Georgetown, Maine. (Copies of the plan are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

Art. 29. To see if the Town will vote take the following actions concerning Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan or ARPA funds) received by the Town from the federal government:

- a. Appropriate up to \$7,750 of the ARPA funds to be expended as premium pay to eligible and qualified municipal employees in the Town Office, Transfer Station and Fire Department who provided an essential service between March 2020 through June 2021 (this covers a \$250 one-time payment to 31 employees); and
- b. Appropriate \$48,767.24 under the ARPA eligible use category of "governmental services replacing lost revenue" to be expended toward renovation of the First Church building;
- c. To establish a non-lapsing ARPA Reserve Fund, to place funds appropriated under paragraph (b) into the Fund until needed, and to authorize the Select board to spend said funds for the authorized purpose without additional town meeting approval; and
- d. To authorize the Select Board to execute any documents or agreements necessary to accomplish said purposes.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Art. 30. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the expenditure of funds to pay the following Town Officers' salaries for the period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, hereafter designated as the fiscal year 2022-23, and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2021-22	2022-23
Selectman, Chair	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Selectman (2)	8,000	8,000
Assistant to the Selectmen	43,691	46,312
Finance Director	0	49,073
Bookkeeper (now combined with Admin Assist)	0	0
Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector	2,446	2,592
Administrative Assistant (includes Bookkeeper)	27,327	0
Registrar of Voters	300	300
Tax Collector	26,123	27,691
Town Clerk	8,229	8,723

Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk fees	6,000	6,000
Town-Owned Property Management Board	1,500	1,500
Training Time	2,000	0
Treasurer	5,214	5,527
Emergency Management Director	250	250
Vacation and sick pay annual	3,300	3,300
Vacation and sick pay fund	<u>9,460</u>	<u>17,700</u>
	\$ 148,841	\$ 181,968

Art. 31. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following administrative expenses for the fiscal year 2022-23 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2021-22	2022-23
Board of Appeals	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,050
Conservation Commission	4,075	8,080
Planning Board	500	500
Street lights / Signs	3,700	3,900
Town Office expense	36,106	36,948
General Government	<u>141,400</u>	<u>210,500</u>
	\$ 186,831	\$ 260,978*

*This includes \$6,500 in reserve fund additions

TOWN-OWNED PROPERTY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Art. 32. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Town-Owned Property Management Board to solicit and accept donations for wharf repairs and improvements.

Art. 33. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following property management expenses for the fiscal year 2022-23 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2021-22	2022-23
TOPMB Operations	\$ 46,800	\$ 44,540*

*This includes \$22,000 in reserve fund additions

Art. 34. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Town-Owned Property Management Board to assess and collect repair costs from anyone whose vessel damages the Town Wharf at Five Islands.

GEORGETOWN COMMON SCHOOLS

Articles 35 - 44 Education expenditure articles for the fiscal year 2022-23

Art. 35. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the following for Regular Instruction.

	2021-22	2022-23
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 1,318,513	\$1,386,643

Art. 36. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the following for Special Education.	2021-22	2022-23
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 434,337	\$395,594
Art. 37. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the following for Other Instruction.	2021-22	2022-23
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 5,288	\$7,442
Art. 38. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the following for Student and Staff Support.	2021-22	2022-23
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 81,966	\$66,748
Art. 39. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the following for System Administration.	2021-22	2022-23
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 68,855	\$71,565
Art. 40. To see if the Town will authorize the School Committee to expend the following for School Administration.	2021-22	2022-23
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 196,829	\$197,046
Art. 41. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the following for Transportation and Buses.	2021-22	2022-23
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 189,252	\$181,211
Art. 42. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the following for Facilities and Maintenance.	2021-22	2022-23
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 237,325	\$237,577
Art. 43. To see if the Town will authorize the School Committee to expend the following Other Expenditures.	2021-22	2022-23
<i>The School Committee recommends</i>	\$ 45,000	\$45,000
Art. 44. To see if the Town will authorize the School Committee to expend the following for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 from the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, additional local funds for school purposes under 20-A MRSA § 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, State subsidy, and other receipts for the support of schools.	2021-22	2022-23
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 2,577,365	\$2,588,826

Articles 45 – 46 Education revenue articles for the fiscal year 2022-23

Art. 45. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act (the School Committee recommends \$1,481,636) and to see if the Town will vote to raise as the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with 20-A MRSA § 15688.

	2021-22	2022-23
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 1,164,711	\$1,331,431

Explanation: The Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that the Town must raise in order to receive the full amount of State dollars (\$153,223).

Art. 46. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$979,172 in additional local funds, which exceeds the State Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$934,172, as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Committee?

The School Committee recommends: YES

The vote on this article must be by written ballot under State law.

The School Committee recommends these local funds to support the educational programs Georgetown voters have long endorsed. This amount is needed to cover costs of District schools that the state's funding model does not recognize including the following: 1) costs of student-teacher ratios, 2) costs of special education programming, 3) costs of extra-curricular and co-curricular programs, 4) transportation costs and 5) repairs and maintenance to the school building. Last year the additional local amount raised was \$1,021,284.

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Town's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the EPS Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment of non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the Town budget for educational programs.

Article 47 - School Facilities Reserve Fund article for the fiscal year 2022-23

Art. 47. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to the capital reserve fund for renovations to the Georgetown Central School, to be expended on recommendation of the School Committee and approval by a majority vote of the Board of Selectmen (current balance \$61,115)

	2021-22	2022-23
<i>The School Committee and Select Board recommends:</i>	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500

Other School Articles

Art. 48. In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall the school committee be authorized to expend such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

The School Committee recommends: YES

Art. 49. In the event that the Town of Georgetown receives more state education subsidy than the amount included in its 2022-23 budget, shall the School Committee be authorized to use the additional subsidy amount to expend beyond the amounts approved for expenditure in the preceding articles?

The School Committee recommends: YES

Art. 50. Shall the Town vote to authorize the School Committee to appropriate up to \$150,000 from the school department's unassigned fund balance to be placed in a non-lapsing Student Expense reserve account to cover unanticipated and unappropriated expenses related to student education (examples of authorized expenditures include: tuition, transportation, staff and/or related expenses). Withdrawals from the reserve would require approval by a majority of both the Georgetown School Committee and the Georgetown Select Board. Approval of this article does not increase the funding request by the school department.

The School Committee & Select Board recommends: YES

Art. 51. Shall the Town vote to authorize the School Committee to transfer amounts exceeding 5% of the total appropriation for any cost center to another cost center or among other cost centers for the 2022-23 fiscal year, subject to the approval of the Georgetown Select Board?

The School Committee & Select Board recommends: YES

PUBLIC SAFETY

Art. 52. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the officers and directors of the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. to solicit and accept donations, grants, and reimbursement claims and to transfer the funds thus raised to the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department.

Art. 53. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to extend and continue the present contract with the Sagadahoc County Fire Association for mutual emergency assistance.

Art. 54. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following protection expenses for the fiscal year 2022-23 and to appropriate the Town and grant funds required:

	2021-22	2022-23
Animal Control	\$ 4,627	\$ \$4,756
Code Enforcement Officer/Local Plumbing Inspector	21,604	\$21,622
Volunteer Fire Department	205,553	\$188,172*
Harbormaster and moorings	14,179	\$13,750
Shellfish Conservation Committee	<u>24,184</u>	<u>\$22,612</u>
	\$ 270,147	\$ 250,912

*This includes \$20,000 in reserve fund additions.

SANITATION

Art. 55. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following solid waste disposal expenses for the fiscal year 2022-23 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2021-22	2022-23
Transfer Station Operations	\$ 183,828	\$ 186,636

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES

Art. 56. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following road expenses for the fiscal year 2022-23 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2021-22	2022-23
Town Road Maintenance	\$ 85,500	\$ 97,500
Town Road Paving	225,000	\$190,000
Transfer to paving reserve (current balance \$321,096)	25,000	\$50,000
Transfer to Robinhood Rd reserve (current balance \$ 125,000)	<u>50,000</u>	<u>\$75,000</u>
	\$ 385,500	\$ 412,500

Art. 57. To see if the Town will vote to authorize spending \$287,250 for snow removal for the fiscal year 2022-23 and to appropriate the Town funds required. Last year's proposed sum was \$277,350.

RECREATION, HEALTH, AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Art. 58. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following local service expenses for the fiscal year 2022-23 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2021-22	2022-23
General assistance	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Georgetown Community Center	7,500	\$8,000
Recreation Committee	5,000	\$6,690
Richards Library	<u>2,500</u>	<u>\$1,500</u>
	\$ 19,000	\$ 20,190

Art. 59. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following regional service expenses for the fiscal year 2022-23 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2021-22	2022-23
Bath Area Senior Activity Center	800	800
Bath Area Food Bank	700	700
Bath Elder Outreach	150	0
Big Brothers / Big Sisters	450	450
Midcoast Maine Community Action	525	525
New Hope Midcoast	500	350
Oasis Free Clinic	500	500
Patten Free Library	19,663	20,454
People Plus	500	500
Spectrum Generations	400	400
Sweetser	<u>850</u>	<u>850</u>
	\$ 25,038	\$ 25,529

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

Art. 60. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying for the following cemetery expenses for the fiscal year 2022-23 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2021-22	2022-23
Cemetery Maintenance and Repair	\$ 17,100	\$ 22,100

UNCLASSIFIED

Art. 61. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying \$27,053 for MacMahan Island for the fiscal year 2022-23 as authorized by law and to appropriate the Town funds required. This amount is a direct obligation of the Town. Last year's amount was \$26,562.

Art. 62. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying a sum now estimated at \$942,297 to pay tax to Sagadahoc County and to appropriate the Town funds required. This amount is a direct obligation of the Town. Last year's actual amount was \$872,556.

Art. 63. To see if the Town will vote to authorize usage of funds from undesignated fund balance, not to exceed \$225,000, to reduce the annual tax commitment.

Art. 64. To see if the Town will vote to bring forward the mandated actual unexpended balance in the following account. The expected unexpended balance as of May 17, 2022 is shown.

	2021-22	2022-23
Common School Funds	\$ 275,000	\$ 125,000

Art. 65. To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$853,536 set for the Town by the State in the event that the municipal budget approved at Town Meeting will result in a tax commitment greater than that property tax levy limit.

Note: The vote on this article must be by written ballot under State law. The Board of Selectmen commend members of the Financial Advisory Committee and all Town boards and committees for their hard work in trimming the budget as far as possible. **They strongly urge a Yes vote on this article.**

The Registrar of Voters will be at the Georgetown Town Office on Tuesday, the fourteenth of June, at eight o'clock in the forenoon and again on Saturday, the eighteenth of June, at ten o'clock in the forenoon to correct the list of voters.

You are hereby required to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies in public places in the Town of Georgetown at least seven days before the time of this meeting.

Given under our hands this twenty-fourth day of May, 2022:

Attest: Alexandra Kelley
Alexandra Kelley, Town Clerk
Mary F. McDonald
Mary F. McDonald, Citizen

Richard W. Donaldson
Richard W. Donaldson
Jonathan C. Collins
Jonathan C. Collins
Bronwen Tudor
Bronwen Tudor
Selectmen, Town of Georgetown