

# TOWN WARRANT 2025

TO: Robert Trabona, 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 tenth day of June, 2025 at 8 o'clock in the forenoon through 8 o'clock in the evening to vote by secret ballot on Articles 1 through 7 and again on Saturday, the fourteenth day of June, 2025 beginning at 9 o'clock in the forenoon**, to act by open meeting on Articles 8 through 57:

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, 2026.

Art. 3. To elect by ballot a Select Board Member for a term ending at the 2028 Annual Town Meeting.

Art. 4. To elect by ballot a Tax Collector for a term ending at the closing of the Town books, June 30, 2026.

Art. 5. To elect by ballot a member of the School Committee for a term ending at the 2028 Annual Town Meeting.

Art. 6. To elect by ballot a member of the Town-Owned Property Management Board for a term ending at the 2028 Annual Town Meeting.

Art. 7. To elect by ballot a Cemetery District Trustee for a term ending at the 2028 Annual Town Meeting.

Art. 8. 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 eight (8) 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 four (4) percent per annum will be applied to all accounts from the date the taxes were paid until the overpayment is repaid.

Art. 9. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the consent of the Select Board, 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. 10. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, 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, in accordance with relevant statutes, and to execute quitclaim deeds on the same.

Art. 11. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of Town owned personal property valued at \$2,000 or less under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

Art. 12. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board 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. 13. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal Treasurer, upon direction from the Select Board, 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. 14. 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. 15. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate from Undesignated Fund Balance an amount not to exceed \$25,000 to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that may occur during the next fiscal year.

Art. 16. 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 2025-26 to the Health Benefits Reserve Fund. (The Health Benefits Reserve fund balance is estimated to be \$28,680 as of June 30, 2025).

Art. 17. To see if the Town will vote to change the office of Town Clerk from elected to appointed effective as of the annual election in 2026. Thereafter the Clerk will be appointed by the Select Board for a one-year term.

Art. 18. To see if the Town will vote to change the office of Tax Collector from elected to appointed effective as of the annual election in 2026. Thereafter the Tax Collector will be appointed by the Select Board for a one-year term.

Art. 19. To see if the Town will vote by secret ballot to authorize the Select Board to negotiate and execute an easement deed on terms they deem in the best interests of the Town to Melissa Peterson in relation to Town owned property located on Map 13U, Lot 33, for the purpose of locating and maintaining a subsurface wastewater septic system on the property.

#### **ORDINANCE CHANGES**

Art. 20. Shall the 2025 Amendments to the Board of Appeals Ordinance be enacted? (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

Art. 21. Shall the 2025 Amendments to the Shellfish Conservation Ordinance be enacted? (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

Art. 22. Shall the 2025 Amendments to the Solar Energy Ordinance be enacted? (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

#### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

Art. 23. 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, 2025 to June 30, 2026, hereafter designated as the fiscal year 2025-26, and to raise and appropriate the Town funds required:

	2024-25	2025-26
Select Board Member, Chair	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Select Board Member (2)	8,000	8,000
Town Administrator	60,000	64,000
Finance Director	70,000	71,400
Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector	3,000	0
Office Assistant	0	20,000
Registrar of Voters	300	300
Tax Collector	35,000	35,700
Town Clerk	15,000	15,300
Town-Owned Property Management Board (3)	1,500	1,500
Emergency Management Director	2,750	2,800
Vacation and sick pay annual	4,000	4,000
Vacation and sick pay fund	<u>27,203</u>	<u>26,749</u>

	\$ 231,753	\$ 254,749
Art. 24. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following administrative expenses for the fiscal year 2025-26 and to raise and appropriate the Town funds required:	2024-25	2025-26
Board of Appeals	\$ 625	\$ 700
Conservation Commission	7,100	4,600
Planning Board	500	1,450
Streetlights / Signs	3,450	3,450
Town Office expense	40,780	39,356
General Government	<u>236,728</u>	<u>249,279</u>
	\$289,183	\$298,835*

*\*This includes \$7,000 in reserve fund additions*

#### **TOWN-OWNED PROPERTY MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Art. 25. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board and the Town-Owned Property Management Board to solicit and accept donations for wharf repairs and improvements.

Art. 26. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following property management expenses for the fiscal year 2025-26 and to raise and appropriate the Town funds required:	2024-25	2025-26
TOPMB Operations	\$ 55,800	\$ 44,100*

*\*This includes \$24,000 in reserve fund additions*

Art. 27. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board 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 28 THROUGH 36 AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES IN COST CENTER CATEGORIES**

Art. 28. Regular Instruction: To see if the Georgetown School Department will be authorized to expend \$1,520,532 for Regular Instruction.

*The School Committee recommends YES.*

*For 2024-25, \$1,536,454 was authorized.*

Art. 29. Special Education: To see if the Georgetown School Department will be authorized to expend \$377,750 for Special Education Instruction.

*The School Committee recommends YES.*

*For 2024-25, \$355,618 was authorized.*

Art. 30. Other Instruction: To see if the Georgetown School Department will be authorized to expend \$8,436 for Other Instruction.

*The School Committee recommends YES.*

*For 2024-25, \$7,922 was authorized.*

Art. 31. Student and Staff Support: To see if the Georgetown School Department will be authorized to expend \$86,652 for Student and Staff Support.

*The School Committee recommends YES.*

*For 2024-25, \$88,971 was authorized.*

Art. 32. System Administration: To see if the Georgetown School Department will be authorized to expend \$120,568 for System Administration.

*The School Committee recommends YES.*

*For 2024-25, \$102,698 was authorized.*

Art. 33. School Administration: To see if the Georgetown School Department will be authorized to expend \$191,443 for School Administration.

*The School Committee recommends YES.*

*For 2024-25, \$199,054 was authorized.*

Art. 34. Transportation and Buses: To see if the Georgetown School Department will be authorized to expend \$206,748 for Transportation and Buses.

*The School Committee recommends YES.*

*For 2024-25, \$199,140 was authorized.*

Art. 35. Facilities and Maintenance: To see if the Georgetown School Department will be authorized to expend \$247,957 for Facilities and Maintenance.

*The School Committee recommends YES.*

*For 2024-25, \$242,042 was authorized.*

Art. 36. All Other Expenditures: To see if the Georgetown School Department will be authorized to expend \$15,000 for All Other Expenditures.

*The School Committee recommends YES.*

*For 2024-25, \$20,000 was authorized.*

#### **ARTICLES 37 AND 38 RAISE FUNDS FOR THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET**

Art. 37. State/Local EPS Funding Allocation: To see if the Town of Georgetown will appropriate \$1,677,556.13 for the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, and to see if the Town of Georgetown will raise \$1,528,313.39 as the municipality'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 the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

*The School Committee recommends YES.*

*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 and assess in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.*

Art. 38. Additional Local Funds: To see if the Town of Georgetown will raise and appropriate \$1,094,625.27 in additional local funds for purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, Section 15690, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$1,079,625.27

*The School Committee recommends YES.*

**Article 38 requires a "recorded vote" pursuant to state law.**

*The School Committee gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$1,079,625.27: costs of maintaining student-teacher ratios; costs of special education programming; costs of extra-curricular and co-curricular programs; transportation costs; repairs and maintenance to the school building.*

*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 Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment of non-state-funded debt service that will help achieve the Town's budget for educational programs.*

#### **ARTICLE 39 SUMMARIZES THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET**

Art. 39. Total School Budget Summary: To see if the Town will authorize the School Committee to expend \$2,775,086 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, 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, local funds for non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy, and other receipts for the support of schools.

*The School Committee recommends YES.*

#### **ARTICLE 40 SCHOOL FACILITIES RESERVE FUND ARTICLE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26**

Art. 40. 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 Select Board (current balance \$68,365)

	2024-25	2025-26
<i>The School Committee and Select Board recommend:</i>	\$ 7,500	\$7,500

#### **ARTICLES 41 THROUGH 44 PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SCHOOL AUTHORIZATIONS**

Art. 41. Expenditures of Grants and Other Receipts: In addition to the 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, and other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

*The School Committee recommends YES.*

Art. 42. Use of Additional State Subsidy: In the event that the Town of Georgetown receives more state education subsidy than the amount included in its 2025-2026 budget, shall the School Committee be authorized to use the additional subsidy amount to increase expenditures for school purposes in cost centers categories approved by the School Committee?

*The School Committee recommends YES.*

Art. 43. Student Expense Reserve: Shall the School Committee be authorized to expend in its discretion from the Student Expense Reserve (current balance: \$150,000) during the 2025-2026 fiscal year to cover unanticipated and unappropriated expenses related to student education (examples of authorized expenditures include: tuition, transportation, staff and/or related expenses)?

*Note*: Expenditures from the Student Expense Reserve require approval by a majority of each of 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 recommends YES.*

Art. 44. Cost Center Budget Transfers: Shall the School Committee be authorized to transfer amounts exceeding 5% of the total appropriation for any cost center to another cost center or among other cost centers for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, subject to approval of the Georgetown Select Board?

*Explanation: This article provides the school department flexibility to utilize funds from the entire taxpayer-approved budget before needing to access funds in any reserve account and eliminate the need for special town meetings to increase appropriations in expenditure lines. Approval of this article does not affect the amount of taxes being levied.*

*The School Committee recommends YES.*

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Art. 45. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board 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. 46. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to extend and continue the present contract with the Sagadahoc County Fire Association for mutual emergency assistance.

Art. 47. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following protection expenses for the fiscal year 2025-26 and to raise and appropriate, as specified, the Town and grant funds required:

	2024-25	2025-26
Animal Control	\$ 4,489	\$ 4,559
Code Enforcement Officer/Local Plumbing Inspector	38,200	38,900
Volunteer Fire Department	236,560	311,870*
Harbormaster and moorings	12,900	12,908
Shellfish Conservation Committee	<u>23,255</u>	<u>25,570</u>
	\$ 315,404	\$ 393,807

*\*This includes \$80,000 in reserve fund additions.*

## **SANITATION**

Art. 48. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following solid waste disposal expenses for the fiscal year 2025-26 and to raise and appropriate, as specified, the Town funds required:

	2024-25	2025-26
Transfer Station Operations	\$ 236,294	\$ 246,190*

*\*This includes \$4,000 in reserve fund additions.*

## **HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES**

Art. 49. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following road expenses for the fiscal year 2025-26 and to raise and appropriate the Town funds required:

	2024-25	2025-26
Town Road Operating Expenses	\$ 174,500	\$143,000
Town Road Paving	812,980	402,000
Transfer to paving reserve (current balance \$521,096)	75,000	75,000
Transfer to Robinhood Rd reserve (current balance \$250,000)	<u>50,000</u>	<u>0</u>
	\$ 1,062,480	\$620,000

Art. 50. To see if the Town will vote to authorize moving all excess funds from the Robinhood Road Culvert Reserve fund to the Flying Point Road Culvert Reserve Fund. (Estimated at \$170,000)

Art. 51. To see if the Town will vote to authorize spending \$367,600 for snow removal for the fiscal year 2025-26 and to raise and appropriate the Town funds required. Last year's sum was \$344,615.

#### RECREATION, HEALTH, AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Art. 52. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following local service expenses for the fiscal year 2025-26 and to raise and appropriate the Town funds required:

	2024-25	2025-26
General assistance	\$ 20,000*	\$ 8,000
Georgetown Community Center	10,000	10,000
Recreation Committee	6,800	6,050
Richards Library	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,500</u>
	\$ 38,300	\$ 25,550

*\*This total comes from the October 8, 2024 Special Town Meeting in which an additional \$16,000 was raised. Town Meeting 2024 approved \$4,000.*

Art. 53. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following regional service expenses for the fiscal year 2025-26 and to raise and appropriate the Town funds required:

	2024-25	2025-26
Bath Area Senior Activity Center	\$ 800	\$ 500
Bath Area Food Bank	700	1,000
Big Brothers / Big Sisters	0	250
Maine Public	0	100
MidCoast Maine Community Action	525	600
Oasis Free Clinic	500	400
Patten Free Library	22,895	24,659
Spectrum Generations	400	500
Tedford Shelter	<u>0</u>	<u>500</u>
	\$ 27,940*	\$ 28,509

*\*In the 2024-25 Budget, the Town also funded the following: New Hope MidCoast (\$420), People Plus (\$500), and Sweetser (\$1,200). They were not included in the proposed 2025-26 Budget.*

#### CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

Art. 54. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying for the following cemetery expenses for the fiscal year 2025-26 and to raise and appropriate the Town funds required:

2024-25	2025-26
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Cemetery Maintenance and Repair

\$ 76,950 \$ 33,650

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Art. 55. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying \$36,960 for MacMahan Island for the fiscal year 2025-26 as required by law and to raise and appropriate the Town funds required. Last year's amount was \$32,036.

Art. 56. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying a sum now estimated at \$1,445,744 to pay tax to Sagadahoc County and to raise and appropriate the Town funds required. This amount is a direct obligation of the Town. Last year's actual amount was \$1,264,529.

Art. 57. To see if the Town will vote to authorize usage of funds from undesignated fund balance, not to exceed \$200,000 to reduce the annual tax commitment.

The Registrar of Voters will be at the Georgetown Town Office on Tuesday, the tenth day of June, at eight o'clock in the morning and again on Saturday, the fourteenth day of June, at nine 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 second day of June, 2025:

Attest: Alexandra Kelley

Alexandra Kelley, Town Clerk

Robert Trabona

Robert Trabona, Citizen

Jonathan E. Collins

Jonathan E. Collins

Bronwen Tudor

Bronwen Tudor

Aria Eee

Aria Eee

*Select Board, Town of Georgetown*