

TOWN WARRANT 2026

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 ninth day of June, 2026 at 8 o'clock in the forenoon through 8 o'clock in the evening and again on Saturday, the thirteenth day of June, 2026 beginning at 9 o'clock in the forenoon**, 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 Select Board Member for a term ending at the 2029 Annual Town Meeting.

Art. 3. To elect by ballot a member of the School Committee for a term ending at the 2029 Annual Town Meeting.

Art. 4. To elect by ballot a member of the Town-Owned Property Management Board for a term ending at the 2029 Annual Town Meeting.

Art. 5. To elect by ballot a Cemetery District Trustee for a term ending at the 2029 Annual Town Meeting.

Articles 1 through 5 will be voted on Tuesday, June 9, between 8am and 8pm, with the remaining articles addressed on Saturday, June 13, beginning at 9 o'clock in the forenoon.

Art. 6. 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 seven and a half (7.5) 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. 7. 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. 8. 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 and in accordance with applicable law, and to execute quitclaim deeds on the same.

Art. 9. 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. 10. 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. 11. 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. 12. 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. 13. 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. 14. 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 2026-27 to the Health Benefits Reserve Fund. (The Health Benefits Reserve fund balance is estimated to be \$21,722 as of June 30, 2026).

Art. 15. ADVISORY ARTICLE – To see if the Town shall direct the Select Board to develop an Ordinance related to EMS billing.

CITIZEN PETITION

Art. 16. To see if the Town shall vote to expand the number of current elected Select Board members from 3 to a total of 5 with the election of the additional 2 members to occur as soon as is legally possible.

ORDINANCE CHANGES

Art. 17. Shall amendments to the Building and Demolition Permit Ordinance be enacted? (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

Art. 18. Shall amendments to the Minimum Lot Size Ordinance be enacted? (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

Art. 19. Shall amendments to the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance be enacted? (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

Art. 20. Shall amendments to the Solar Energy Ordinance be enacted? (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

Art. 21. Shall amendments to the Subdivision Ordinance be enacted? (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Art. 22. 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, 2026 to June 30, 2027, hereafter designated as the fiscal year 2026-27, and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2025-26	2026-27
Select Board Member, Chair	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Select Board Member (2)	8,000	8,000
Town Administrator	64,000	65,920
Finance Director	71,400	73,542
Office Assistant / Deputy	20,000	20,600
Registrar of Voters	300	300
Tax Collector	35,700	36,771
Town Clerk	15,300	15,759
Town-Owned Property Management Board (3)	1,500	1,500
Emergency Management Director	2,800	2,876
Merit Increase	0	9,211

Vacation and sick pay annual	4,000	4,000
Vacation and sick pay fund	<u>26,749</u>	<u>24,590</u>
	\$ 254,749	\$ 268,069

Art. 23. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following administrative expenses for the fiscal year 2026-27 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2025-26	2026-27
Board of Appeals	\$ 700	\$ 700
Conservation Commission	4,600	4,100
Planning Board	1,450	500
Streetlights / Signs	3,450	3,750
Town Office expense	39,356	49,713
General Government	<u>249,279</u>	<u>323,479</u>
	\$298,835	\$382,242*

**This includes \$27,500 in reserve fund additions*

TOWN-OWNED PROPERTY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Art. 24. 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. 25. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following property management expenses for the fiscal year 2026-27 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2025-26	2026-27
TOPMB Operations	\$ 44,100	\$ 50,950*

**This includes \$29,000 in reserve fund additions*

Art. 26. 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 27 THROUGH 35 AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES IN COST CENTER CATEGORIES

Art. 27. Regular Instruction: To see if the Georgetown School Department will be authorized to expend \$1,596,179 for Regular Instruction.

*The School Committee recommends YES.
For 2025-26, \$1,520,532 was authorized.*

Art. 28. Special Education: To see if the Georgetown School Department will be authorized to expend \$436,540 for Special Education Instruction.

*The School Committee recommends YES.
For 2025-26, \$377,750 was authorized.*

Art. 29. Other Instruction: To see if the Georgetown School Department will be authorized to expend \$4,185 for Other Instruction.

*The School Committee recommends YES.
For 2025-26, \$8,436 was authorized.*

- Art. 30. Student and Staff Support: To see if the Georgetown School Department will be authorized to expend \$91,406 for Student and Staff Support.

*The School Committee recommends YES.
For 2025-26, \$86,652 was authorized.*

- Art. 31. System Administration: To see if the Georgetown School Department will be authorized to expend \$134,751 for System Administration.

*The School Committee recommends YES.
For 2025-26, \$120,568 was authorized.*

- Art. 32. School Administration: To see if the Georgetown School Department will be authorized to expend \$228,157 for School Administration.

*The School Committee recommends YES.
For 2025-26, \$191,443 was authorized.*

- Art. 33. Transportation and Buses: To see if the Georgetown School Department will be authorized to expend \$193,157 for Transportation and Buses.

*The School Committee recommends YES.
For 2025-26, \$206,748 was authorized.*

- Art. 34. Facilities and Maintenance: To see if the Georgetown School Department will be authorized to expend \$261,794 for Facilities and Maintenance.

*The School Committee recommends YES.
For 2025-26, \$247,957 was authorized.*

- Art. 35. 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 2025-26, \$15,000 was authorized.*

ARTICLES 36 AND 37 RAISE FUNDS FOR THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

- Art. 36. State/Local EPS Funding Allocation: To see if the Town of Georgetown will appropriate \$1,594,221.45 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 \$1,455,489.07 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. 37. Additional Local Funds: (Written ballot required). To see if the Town of Georgetown will raise and appropriate \$1,254,268.55 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 \$1,239,268.55.

The School Committee recommends YES.

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

The School Committee gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$1,239,268.55: 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 38 SUMMARIZES THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

- Art. 38. **Total School Budget Summary:** To see if the Town will authorize the School Committee to expend \$2,961,169 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, 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 39 IS THE SCHOOL FACILITIES RESERVE FUND ARTICLE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-27

- Art. 39. 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 \$38,197)

	2025-26	2026-27
<i>The School Committee and Select Board recommend:</i>	\$ 7,500	\$10,000

ARTICLES 41 THROUGH 44 PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SCHOOL AUTHORIZATIONS

- Art. 40. **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. 41. **Use of Additional State Subsidy:** In the event that the Town of Georgetown receives more state education subsidy than the amount included in its 2026-2027 budget, shall the School Committee be authorized 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. 42. **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 2026-2027 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. 43. **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 2026-2027 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. 44. 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. 45. 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. 46. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following protection expenses for the fiscal year 2026-27 and to appropriate the Town and grant funds required:

	2025-26	2026-27
Animal Control	\$ 4,559	\$ 5,117
Code Enforcement Officer/Local Plumbing Inspector	38,900	39,521
Volunteer Fire Department	311,870	335,119
Harbormaster and moorings	12,908	19,550
Shellfish Conservation Committee	<u>25,570</u>	<u>31,450</u>
	\$ 393,807	\$ 429,807*

**This includes \$97,500 in reserve fund additions.*

SANITATION

Art. 47. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following solid waste disposal expenses for the fiscal year 2026-27 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2025-26	2026-27
Transfer Station Operations	\$ 246,190	\$ 252,747*

**This includes 6,000 in reserve fund additions.*

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES

Art. 48. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following road expenses for the fiscal year 2026-27 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2025-26	2026-27
Town Road Operating Expenses	\$ 143,000	\$156,000
Town Road Paving	402,000	260,000
Transfer to paving reserve (current balance \$596,096)	<u>75,000</u>	<u>75,000</u>
	\$ 620,000	\$491,000

Art. 49. To see if the Town will vote to authorize spending \$390,600 for snow removal for the fiscal year 2026-27 and to appropriate the Town funds required. Last year's sum was \$367,600.

RECREATION, HEALTH, AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Art. 50. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following local service expenses for the fiscal year 2026-27 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2025-26	2026-27
General assistance	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
Georgetown Community Center	10,000	10,000
Recreation Committee	6,050	6,450
Richards Library	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,500</u>
	\$ 25,550	\$ 25,950

Art. 51. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following regional service expenses for the fiscal year 2026-27 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2025-26	2026-27
Bath Area Senior Activity Center	\$ 500	\$ 600
Bath Area Food Bank	1000	1,000
Bath Area YMCA	0	500
Big Brothers / Big Sisters	250	250
Maine Public	100	100
MidCoast Maine Community Action	600	600
New Hope MidCoast	0	465
Oasis Free Clinic	400	500
Patten Free Library	24,659	27,625
Spectrum Generations	500	496
Sweetser	0	1200
Tedford Shelter	<u>500</u>	<u>1000</u>
	\$ 28,509	\$ 34,336

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

Art. 52. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying for the following cemetery expenses for the fiscal year 2026-27 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2025-26	2026-27
Cemetery Maintenance and Repair	\$ 33,650	\$ 31,210

UNCLASSIFIED

Art. 53. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying \$38,796 for MacMahan Island for the fiscal year 2026-27 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 \$36,960.

Art. 54. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying a sum now estimated at \$1,535,767 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 \$1,445,744.

Art. 55. To see if the Town will vote to authorize usage of funds from undesignated fund balance, not to exceed \$250,000 to reduce the annual tax commitment.

The Registrar of Voters will be at the Georgetown Town Office on Tuesday, the ninth day of June, at eight o'clock in the forenoon and again on Saturday, the thirteenth 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 twenty sixth day of May, 2026:

Attest:

Angela Mead

Angela Mead, Town Clerk

Robert Trabona

Robert Trabona, Citizen

Aria Ee

Aria Ee

Katharine Goodwin

Katharine Goodwin

Katharine S. Gravino

Katharine Gravino

Select Board, Town of Georgetown