

**OFFICIAL BALLOT
MUNICIPAL REFERENDUM BALLOT
TOWN OF HOWLAND, MAINE
JUNE 10, 2025**

To: Kelly Sirois, a resident of the Town of Howland, in the County of Penobscot, State of Maine.

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Howland in said county and state, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to appear at the Town Office in said Town on Tuesday, the 10th day of June, A.D. 2025, at eight o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to act upon Article I and by secret ballot on Articles II through 34 as set out below, the polling hours therefor to be from eight o'clock in the forenoon until eight o'clock in the afternoon, said articles being the following:

- Referendum Article 1: To elect a moderator to preside of said Meeting.
- Referendum Article 2: Shall the town vote to set the interest rate paid by the town on abated taxes at 3.00% for the upcoming fiscal year 2025 - 2026?
- The town is required to set the interest rate to be paid to any taxpayer who receives an abatement on taxes that have already been paid. Rate guidelines are set by State of Maine.*
- Referendum Article 3: Shall the town vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to make final determination regarding the closing or opening of roads for winter maintenance pursuant to 23 M.R.S.A. Section 2953?
- Referendum Article 4: Shall the town vote to have 2025 - 2026 taxes become due and payable 60 days from the date of commitment?
- This sets the date that interest will start on unpaid taxes.*
- Referendum Article 5: Shall the town vote to charge 7.00% per annum interest on all unpaid Taxes for Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026?
- Set by State of Maine*
- Referendum Article 6: Shall the town vote to authorize the Selectmen and Treasurer, on behalf of the town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the town for non-payment of taxes thereon, in accordance with the Management of Tax-Liened Property Guidelines and Town of Howland Policy for Disposition of Tax Acquired Property?

- Referendum Article 7: Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$562,501 for the operation of the General Government?
- *General Government \$287,757*
 - *Overlay \$5,000*
 - *Contingency \$10,000*
 - *Elections \$6,106*
 - *Town Hall \$72,422*
 - *General Assistance \$4,000*
 - *Police Contract \$6,000*
 - *Donation \$5,210*
 - *Retirement \$18,000*
 - *County \$147,468*
 - *Health Officer \$538*
- Referendum Article 8: Shall the town vote to appropriate the sum of \$477,539 for Howland's FY26 portion of the Fire District Budget?
- Howland's annual fee for fire & EMS service*
- Referendum Article 9: Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$29,050 for Street Lights?
- Referendum Article 10: Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$122,359 for the cost to operate the Transfer & Recycling Facility?
- Pays for contracts, attendants, trash disposal-tipping fees, transportation to disposal site and to process recyclables, etc*
- Referendum Article 11: Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$361,731 for the Highway Department?
- Pays for the day-to-day expenses such as lights, heat, gas, maintenance of vehicles, winter salt/sand, culverts, personnel, etc.*
- Referendum Article 12: Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$364,605 for the following debts?
- *Road improvement loan \$96,928*
 - *Municipal Building loan \$216,387 (paid from Building Lease)*
 - *2021 plow truck \$20,549*
 - *2025 Cap Projects/Paving \$21,933*
 - *Skid steer loader \$8,808*

- Referendum Article 13: Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,085.00 for the Planning Board?
- Pays Board Members for their time.*
- Referendum Article 14: Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,220 for economic development and community events?
- Referendum Article 15: Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,114 for the Howland Library?
- Pays the Librarian wages and books, supplies, crafts for children and reading programs snacks.*
- Referendum Article 16: Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,320 for the maintenance of town parks, Boat launches and playground?
- Pays for upkeep/needs of the parks. This also funds a part-time position to maintain all town owned facilities such as parks, boat launches?*
- Referendum Article 17: Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,908 for the Code Enforcement Officer?
- The town is required by law to have a certified Code Enforcement Officer.*
- Referendum Article 18: Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$37,026 for Summer Recreation programs?
- Pays personnel that run the summer programs and purchases equipment.*
- Referendum Article 19: Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 for the maintenance of the Cemetery?
- This is for general maintenance of the stones and grounds other than mowing, which is carried in a separate line item.*
- Referendum Article 20: Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$82,320 for Fire Suppression Fees?
- This is a fee is required and set by the PUC and is required based on the number of hydrants the town owns and maintains. This is a revenue to the Water Department.*
- Referendum Article 21: Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,176 for Animal Control services?

Referendum Article 22: Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$47,800 for Municipal Grounds keeping?

This was previously entitled 'Mowing' with costs divided amongst various departments. This is for the groundskeeping of the cemetery and other municipal property.

Referendum Article 23: Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for the Assessing Agent?

Referendum Article 24: Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate \$3,000 to fund a cemetery reserve fund for upgrades and improvements?

This fund would be used to fund improvements such as expansion, improvements and development of existing cemeteries?

Referendum Article 25: Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for the need of Legal fees?

Referendum Article 26: Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$29,000 to add to the Highway Department Equipment Reserve?

Referendum Article 27: Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to add to the Sidewalk Reserve for the maintenance and upkeep of Sidewalks?

Referendum Article 28: Shall the town vote to raise and appropriate the approximate sum of \$40,500 for reserve funds for the municipal building reserve?

NOTE: \$10,500 is used annually for maintenance on all building heating units.

Referendum Article 29: Shall the town vote to authorize the Town Manager to apply for a conventional loan(s) or bonds through the Maine Bond(s) Bank up to \$1,000,000 for a term not exceeding 20 years

Funding the following projects Salt sand storage facility \$400,000
Interior and exterior coating to the water standpipe \$140,000,
Capital paving projects throughout the Town of Howland \$460,000

Note: The passage of this article question allows the town to leverage \$1,660,000 in federal funding towards these infrastructure improvements

Referendum Article 30: Shall the town vote to appropriate from User Fees and miscellaneous fees the sum of \$271,082 for the operation and maintenance of the Water Department?

Referendum Article 31: Shall the town vote to appropriate from User Fees and miscellaneous fees the sum of \$315,625 for the operation and maintenance of the Sewer Department?

Referendum Article 32:

Shall the town vote to accept estimated revenues anticipated for the fiscal year 2025-2026 and use said revenues to reduce taxes:

General Government (From All Other Sources)	\$418,600
State Revenue Sharing (To Gen Gov't)	\$412,579
BETE Reimbursement (To Gen Gov't)	\$2,530
Homestead (To Gen Gov't).....	\$140,395
Sewer Revenue (To Sewer Department)	\$230,000
Water Revenue (To Water Department)	\$234,000
Municipal Building Lease	\$288,400

Referendum Article 33:

Shall the town vote to authorize the Tax Collector to enter into a standard agreement with taxpayers establishing a “Tax Club” payment plan for property taxes, both for Real Estate and Personal Property, whereby: (1) the taxpayer agrees to pay specified monthly payments to the town based on his/her estimated and actual tax obligation for current year property taxes; (2) the town agrees not to charge interest on timely payments made pursuant to the Tax Club agreement; (3) the town authorizes the Tax Collector to accept tax club payments for current year taxes which may be due prior to the commitment of those taxes; (4) the agreement is automatically terminated if a scheduled payment is late, and the taxpayer then becomes subject to the same due date(s) and interest date (s) and rate as other taxpayers who do not have outstanding tax obligations for prior tax years are eligible to participate in the Tax Club program; and (6) taxpayers wishing to participate in a Tax Club for a particular property tax year shall enter an agreement with the town by a publicly-advertised deadline determined by the Tax Collector; this authorization shall stay in place unless rescinded by a future vote of the legislative body?

Referendum Article 34:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal officers to accept gifts & donations and to deposit those funds in accounts authorized by the municipal officers.

Dated: April 9, 2025

Jeffrey N Arrants

Micheal R Sereyko

Sandra J Lindsay

Priscilla A Clark

Eric J ST Cyr

Municipal Officers

A true copy of the warrant,

Attest: _____

Kim Soucier, Clerk of Howland Maine