

Town of Cheshire
Special Town Election Voting Information

Monday August 4, 2025

Polls Open: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Poll Location: Community House – Meeting Room located at 191 Church Street

Question 1 is a DEBT EXCLUSION

A debt exclusion is used to obtain voter approval for a **temporary increase** of the property tax levy to pay for capital projects financed by borrowing to pay for a project for a fixed number of years. Approval of the debt exclusion questions creates a **temporary increase, over a fixed time**, in the amount the community can authorize to cover its annual debt service costs on the borrowing. Once the debt is retired (paid), the exclusion ends. If approved the Police Cruiser will be paid for with a three-year borrowing note.

Question 1:

Shall the Town of Cheshire be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued to purchase a new police cruiser?

Yes_____ No_____

Approval of the Police Cruiser is a two-step process first it must pass at the Annual Town Meeting and then at a Special Town Election. In June 2024 the Police Cruiser request passed at Town Meeting however failed at the Special Election. Again, in June 2025 the Police Cruiser passed at Town Meeting(Vote: 78- Yes, 5- No)

The oldest vehicle in the fleet is a 2017 Ford Interceptor which will be replaced with a 2025 Ford Interceptor. With a well-managed budget and the Police Department Revolving Account \$11,923 is being used to offset the cost of the cruiser. As the 2017 cruiser gets older, the maintenance costs continue to rise. In Fiscal Year 2025 repairs were made costing \$3,992.

Question 2:

Shall the Town of Cheshire vote to uncombine the position of Treasurer/Collector into two separate positions, Treasurer and Collector?

Yes_____ No_____

**Question 2 was approved at the Annual Town Meeting in June 2024 and June 2025. The position was originally combined by vote in 2021.*

This separation will reduce costs to taxpayers and offer more convenient hours including morning and evening availability for tax collections.

In Fiscal Year 2025 (last year) the cost to employ one full time Treasurer/Collector and a part time Assistant Treasurer/Collector with benefits was \$168,000. In the current year the cost to employee One Part Time Treasurer and One Part Time Collector is \$75,000. This is a cost savings of \$93,000.

How can fewer hours accomplish the same work?

- Payroll Streamlining - The new Treasurer has eliminated the expensive, error-prone software in favor of simple paper timesheets and a spreadsheet upload file – payroll now takes three hours instead of eight plus hours and saves \$2,500 per year.
- Tax Billing Processing Efficiency - Moving to professional printing services breaks even on cost while freeing up 160+ hours annually of the collector's time (equivalent to 8+ hours of part-time work).
- Focus on Core Duties - These process improvements mean the collector can spend time serving the residents instead of manual administrative tasks.
- Dedicated Roles - Separating treasurer and tax collector functions will allow each position to specialize and work more efficiently.

What about service hours?

- New Collection Hours - Tuesday and Thursday the office is open 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. During real estate/personal property tax due dates, the office will be open one evening a week until 7 p.m.

What about accountability and oversight?

- All regular semi-annual audits and year-end reporting will continue as before. The Treasurer will be able to concentrate on one position and is reconciling monthly with the accountant, previously it was done annually causing delays in free cash certification. More frequent reconciliation provides better financial oversight and early detection of any issues.
- Proper bonding, CORI clearance, and certification requirements are being met.
- The structure follows best practices for a town our size.

What about service continuity?

- Coverage plans are in place for absences and transitions.
- Cross training ensures no interruption to essential services.

This change saves money, improves service, positions Cheshire for better financial management ,and allows qualified staff to focus on their areas of expertise.