

WARNING FOR VERNON 2026 TOWN MEETING

WARNING

TOWN OF VERNON, VERMONT

2026 ANNUAL TOWN AND SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

The legal voters of the Town of Vernon are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Vernon Elementary School Gymnasium, 381 Governor Hunt Road, at 6:30 pm on Monday, March 2, 2026, in said Town to act upon Articles 4 through 38 below.

Articles 1 through 3 will be voted by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at the Town Office Building, downstairs. Polls will be open from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

The Town Report and Auditors report can be found on the Town's website. Copies of the Town Report will be available at the Town Clerk's office after February 20, 2026.

Article 1: To elect the following Town Officers (**VOTING BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT**):

Treasurer – 3 yr. Term – Joshua Kubecka
Selectboard - 3 yr. Term – Jean Carr
Selectboard - 2 yr. Term – Shelli Dunklee Harvey
Lister 3 yr. Term – Chad Baldwin
Lister -remaining year of a 3-year Term - None
Delinquent Tax Collector – Marylynn Scherlin
First Constable – Jesse Jobin
Second Constable – Chad Baldwin
Town Moderator- Kerry Amidon

Article 2: Shall the voters of the [Vernon Town] School District approve the school board to expend \$7,933,289 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Vernon Town School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$15,762 which is 0.1% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year. (**VOTING BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT**)

Article 3: To elect three (3) school directors from the nominees to serve on the school board of the Vernon School District from the day following the Annual District Meeting: (**VOTING BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT**)

One (1) school director who is a resident of Vernon for a three-year term
One (1) school director who is a resident of Vernon for a two-year term - Daniel Amidon
One (1) school director who is a resident of Vernon for the remaining two years of a three-year term
And a School Moderator

Article 4: Shall the voters authorize Town General Fund expenditure for operating expenses of \$2,478,027.00 of which \$2,309,878.00 shall be raised by taxes, \$168,149 by estimated income. *This is a 3 % increase from last year, and .8% of the increase is due to moving the required Windham Solid Waste Assessment to the General Expense budget instead of being a Town Meeting Article.*

Article 5: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$169,612.00 to be raised by taxes for administration of the Vernon Free Library?

Article 6: To elect a Library Trustee to fill the expired term of three years through Town Meeting of March 2029.

Article 7: To choose a committee to disburse the income of the Marsh Fund.

Article 8: To choose a Memorial Day Committee.

Article 9: Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to appoint the Town Treasurer as authorized by 17 V.S.A. §2651(f) and who shall have the professional qualifications to serve as finance director with the same powers and duties of a Town Treasurer. *This article was added after strong recommendations from our Auditing Firm, Consultants and Employment attorneys due to liability issues. An Elected Treasurer can have full access and control over the Town's finances without any experience or training. An Appointed Treasurer would be required to have experience and training.*

Article 10: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$1,200.00 to be raised by taxes, to fund Vernon Historians, Inc. for the expenditures related to Vernon's historic preservation, educational promotion and required insurance?

Article 11: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$200,000.00 to be raised by taxes to fund the "Professional Services Fund"? *This funds the ongoing litigation with the Utility companies contesting their property tax assessments. There is currently \$69,148.28 in the fund with over \$100,000.00 spent in litigation each year.*

Article 12: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be raised by taxes to fund the "Emergency Repair/Replacement Fund"? *This fund covers the cost of unexpected repairs or equipment replacement of items up to \$10,000.00. There is currently \$23,535.54 in this fund.*

Article 13: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$150,000.00 to be raised by taxes to fund the "Town Road Upgrading Fund"? *The funds cover the expense of maintaining roads in Vernon. This amount will cover the paving or resurfacing 1 to 1.5 miles of road.*

Article 14: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00 to be raised by taxes to fund the "Town Culvert Fund"? *This fund is used to replace culverts. We currently have 2 with a cost of over \$500,000.00 each due to the engineering that is required for large culvert replacements.*

Article 15: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be raised by taxes to fund the "Town Parking Lots Maintenance Fund"? *These funds cover the Maintenance of the Town owned parking lots.*

Article 16: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 to be raised by taxes to fund the previously established "Elderly Assistance Fund"? *This funding supports the elderly and disabled by providing services to keep them in their own homes.*

Article 17: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 to be raised by taxes to fund the "Town of Vernon-James Cusick Scholarship Fund"? *Supports the higher education of Vernon's youth*

Article 18: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$614,554.00 for the funding of items approved in the Capital Plan of which \$469,758.24 is to be raised by taxes? *This is level funded.*

Article 19: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$17,000.00 to be raised by taxes to help support the operating expenses and utilities of the Governor Hunt Community Center? *This supports the operation of the community center that aren't covered by grant funding.*

Article 20: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 to be raised by taxes for the operation of the Emergency Management Office?

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Article 21: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$750.00 to help support the Gathering Place?

Article 22: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$850.00 to help support the Women's Freedom Center?

Article 23: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$2,100.00 to support the services of Southeastern Vermont Community Action?

Article 24: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$6,576.00 for the support of Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) to provide workforce and economic coordination services to the Windham Region.

Article 25: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,850.00 to help support outpatient, mental health and substance abuse services by the staff of Health Care & Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2691?

Article 26: Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$1,785.00 to help support Senior Solutions?

Article 27: Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to appoint a collector of delinquent taxes who may be the Town Treasurer appointed by the Selectboard as authorized by 17 V.S.A. §2651(d)?
Added by petition

Article 28: Shall the Town establish a Community Harvest Festival Reserve Fund to be used for the purpose of funding the Community Harvest Festival in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2804?

Article 29: Shall the Town deposit \$5,416.29 (balance of the Town Picnic Reserve Fund) into the Community Harvest Festival Reserve Fund? *This would allow the Community Center to host and facilitate a Town community event or festival in place of the Town picnic.*

Article 30: Shall the Town dissolve the Town Picnic Reserve fund?
There haven't been any volunteers interested in continuing the traditional Town picnic.

Article 31: Shall the Town establish a reserve fund to be called the "Fire Dredging Reserve Fund" to be used for payment of dredging expenses of Vernon's fire ponds as authorized by 24 V.S.A. §2804?
Establishing a fund to cover the maintenance and dredging of Vernon's fire ponds used for fire protection. This expense has been in the Fire Dept. budget each year. Creating a fund would cut the cost by having the funds available to dredge more than one pond at a time.

Article 32: Shall the voters raise and appropriate \$10,000.00 for the Fire Dredging Reserve fund?

Article 33: Shall the voters authorize payment of Real and Personal Property taxes to the Treasurer in three installments, with the due dates being September 10, 2026, January 7, 2027 and May 6, 2027?

Article 34: Shall the voters approve the provision of notice of availability of the Town Report and Auditor's Report by "postcard, mailed to all registered voters" at least 30 days prior to Town Meeting, in lieu of mailing or otherwise distributing the Town Report and Auditor's Report as authorized by Vermont law and 24 V.S.A. § 1682(a)(2)?

Article 35: To transact any other business that may lawfully come before said meeting.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS BELOW:

The Town Report can be found on the Town's website and in the Clerk's office after February 20, 2026.

The Auditor's Report will be available on the Town website after April 10, 2026.

Questions? Call us at 257-0902, email clerk@vernonvt.org, or check our website at VernonVT.org.

New Residents Welcome!

**PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail**

**Postal Patron
Vernon VT 05354**