

FISCAL YEAR 2026 DURHAM TOWN WARRANT ARTICLES

To: Kimberly Garneau, a resident of the Town of Durham, Androscoggin County, State of Maine

Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Durham in said county and state, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to assemble at The Durham Eureka Community Center, 606 Hallowell Road, Durham, Maine on Friday, April 4, 2025 at 7:45 a.m., then and there to act upon Article 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2 as set out below. Polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Further, to notify and warn said inhabitants to assemble at Durham Community School on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., then and there to act upon Articles 3 through 34 as set out to wit:

- Article 1** To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.
- Article 2** To elect all municipal officers, school committee members, and budget committee members as are required to be elected.
- Article 3** To see if the town will allow non-residents, who have information pertaining to any following articles, to speak when recognized.
- Article 4** To see if the Town of Durham will vote to raise and appropriate an amount not to exceed one-and-a-half times the 2024 Durham Municipal Budget for any budget articles **not** approved in this warrant.

OPERATING BUDGET ARTICLES

Note that all requested amounts to be raised and appropriated below are for an eighteen-month period running from January 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. This period is referred to as “Fiscal Year 2026” and “FY26” in these warrant articles.

- Article 5** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$1,143,060** for General Government.

	<u>FY24 Appr</u>	<u>FY26 Req</u>
Administration	\$ 473,656	\$ 808,250
Assessing	22,800	32,700
Information Technology	47,000	108,600
Planning and Code Enforcement	124,300	193,510

Select Board recommends \$1,143,060

Budget Committee recommends \$1,065,375

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Article 6 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$1,055,920** for Public Safety.

	FY24 Appr	FY26 Req
Fire Department	\$ 603,845	\$ 1,026,920
Animal Control	18,650	29,000

Select Board and Budget Committee recommend Approval.

Article 7 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$2,880,550** for Public Works.

	FY24 Appr	FY26 Req
Public Works	\$ 1,454,228	\$ 2,102,500
Municipal Buildings & Grounds	22,235	52,250
Solid Waste Hauling	375,000	690,000
Tags	2,000	3,000
Bulky Waste Day	12,000	32,800

Select Board and Budget Committee recommend Approval.

Article 8 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$1,000** for Community Services.

	FY24 Appr	FY26 Req
General Assistance	\$ 600	\$ 1,000
Outside Organizations	16,100	0

Select Board and Budget Committee recommend Approval.

Article 9 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$805,318** for Debt Service.

	FY24 Appr	FY26 Req
Debt Service	\$ 780,349	\$ 805,318

Select Board and Budget Committee recommend Approval.

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ADDITIONS TO RESERVES ARTICLES

Article 10 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$270,000** for the Fire Department Capital Reserve, an existing non-lapsing capital reserve fund from which the Select Board may expend for the designated purpose of the reserve.

Select Board and Budget Committee recommend Approval.

Article 11 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$305,500** for the Public Works Capital Reserve, an existing non-lapsing capital reserve fund from which the Select Board may expend for the designated purpose of the reserve.

Select Board and Budget Committee recommend Approval.

Article 12 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$15,000** for the Municipal Buildings Capital Reserve, an existing non-lapsing capital reserve fund from which the Select Board may expend for the designated purpose of the reserve.

Select Board and Budget Committee recommend Approval.

Article 13 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **\$3,152** for the Grants Matching Reserve, an existing non-lapsing capital reserve fund from which the Select Board may expend for the designated purpose of the reserve.

Select Board and Budget Committee recommend Approval.

FUNDING SOURCES ARTICLES

Article 14 To see if the Town will vote to reduce the amounts authorized to be raised in taxes in the previous warrant articles by **\$3,651,770** based on estimates for non-tax municipal revenues.

	<u>FY24 Est</u>		<u>FY26 Est</u>
Excise Taxes	\$ 1,100,000	\$	1,721,000
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	75,400		129,100
Intergovernmental Revenue	1,013,074		1,270,300
Charges for Services	172,000		279,370
Other Revenues	65,000		252,000

Select Board and Budget Committee recommend Approval.

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Article 15 To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to appropriate up to **\$740,000** from the General Fund's existing fund balance to reduce the amounts authorized to be raised in taxes in the previous warrant articles.

Select Board and Budget Committee recommend Approval.

APPROPRIATION FROM RESERVES

Article 16 To see if the Town will vote to consolidate the Telecommunications Reserve and Eureka Center Capital Reserve with the Municipal Buildings Capital Reserve and to revise the stated purpose of the reserve as follows:

The Municipal Buildings Reserve shall be used to pay for acquisitions, construction, or improvements of municipal buildings and grounds, including equipment, furniture, information technology, and other necessary items to furnish and equip them. Unexpended balances of the reserve shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall, instead, carry forward from year to year.

Article 17 To see if the Town will vote to rename the Emergency Reserve as the Contingency Reserve and to establish the stated purpose of the reserve as follows:

The Contingency Reserve shall be used to pay for unplanned, unbudgeted, or underbudgeted expenditures if they arise during the fiscal year. Unexpended balances of the reserve shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall, instead, carry forward from year to year.

Article 18 To see if the town will vote to transfer \$33,047 from the Municipal Buildings Capital Reserve to the Contingency Reserve to bring the Contingency Reserve balance to \$50,000.

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ORDINANCE WARRANT ARTICLES

Article 19 To see if the Town will vote to adopt the updated General Assistance Ordinance, as recommended by the Select Board, to bring the ordinance into compliance with State law (22 M.R.S. § 4305) and the most recent Maine Municipal Association (MMA) model ordinance, including any future updates to maximum assistance levels as required by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Explanation: This article updates Durham’s General Assistance Ordinance to reflect current State law and guidance from the Maine Municipal Association. The ordinance governs financial assistance for residents in need. Adoption ensures compliance with State requirements and eligibility for reimbursement.

Article 20 To see if the Town will vote to enact amendments to the Land Use Ordinance as set forth in the document "Town of Durham, Land Use Ordinance as Adopted at Town Meeting, April 6, 2024, Proposed Revisions for Town Meeting, April 5, 2025, PART 1 – DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE RESOURCE PROTECTION DISTRICT TO MATCH THE LATEST STATE DATA & GIVE RELIEF FOR BUILDINGS IN THE RP DISTRICT (Article 2 & Zoning Map)" to remove areas previously designated as Beginning with Habitat 6+ natural resource values and to grant relief to landowners with existing buildings in Resource Protection.

Article 21 To see if the Town will vote to enact amendments to the Land Use Ordinance as set forth in the document "Town of Durham, Land Use Ordinance as Adopted at Town Meeting, April 6, 2024, Proposed Revisions for Town Meeting, April 5, 2025, PART 2 – DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO APPLY CONTRACT ZONING TO ANY LARGE BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE OR SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM & ENACT BESS STANDARDS (LUO Articles 2, 3, 5, & 19)" to require contract zoning approval for large-scale energy projects and enact safety and other performance standards to apply to commercial and industrial scale battery energy storage systems.

Article 22 To see if the Town will vote to enact amendments to the Land Use Ordinance as set forth in the document "Town of Durham, Land Use Ordinance as Adopted at Town Meeting, April 6, 2024, Proposed Revisions for Town Meeting, April 5, 2025, PART 4 – DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO REVISE THE PROCESS AND STANDARDS FOR PROJECTS INVOLVING HISTORIC PROPERTIES (LUO Articles 5, 12, & 19)" to bring Durham’s historic preservation standards and regulatory process into consistency with State law and Durham’s comprehensive plan.

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BUSINESS ARTICLES

- Article 23** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept a deed from the Durham Cemetery Association for the cemetery property described in a deed from said Association recorded in the Androscoggin County Registry of Deeds at Book 7532, Page 346 and depicted on the Town's tax maps as Map 006, Lot CEM, and to take all other actions necessary to assume contracts and other responsibilities related to care and management of said cemetery.
- Article 24** To see if the Town will vote to change the Annual Town Meeting from the first Saturday in April to the second Saturday in June starting with June 13, 2026.
- Article 25** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to seek, accept and disburse grant funds from private, state or federal agencies, for the purpose so designated in each specific grant.
- Article 26** To see what action the Town will take in regard to fixing interest on delinquent taxes and establishing a date for interest to start. Interest shall begin to accrue on all unpaid taxes forty-five days after the date taxes are committed. The interest rate on delinquent taxes shall be the maximum allowable by State Law.
- Article 27** To see if the Town will vote to leave the appointment of standing committee members and officials in the hands of the Select Board.
- Article 28** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of town owned property which they determine is no longer needed or usable by the town, on such terms as they deem advisable.
- Article 29** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to sell and/or dispose of any property acquired by tax liens and allow the Select Board to authorize the Treasurer to waive automatic lien foreclosures when it is in the best interest of the Town.

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- Article 30** To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate to be paid by the Town on overpayment of abated taxes at 2% pursuant to 36 MRSA § 506-A.
- Article 31** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet due or assessed, and to pay interest thereon at an interest rate of 0% pursuant to 36 MRSA § 506.
- Article 32** To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to resolve any disputes with parties having an interest adverse to that of the Town which do not involve the expenditure of public funds or where there are sufficient funds in budgeted accounts to allow payment of any claim which is to be settled.
- Article 33** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to borrow money on notes approved by at least three members of the Select Board and countersigned by the Select Board Chair, to pay for the operating costs of the Town.
- Article 34** To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to move up to 5% of budget lines that have unexpended appropriations to other budget lines, as they deem necessary, to avoid individual budget lines being over-expended.

Given under our hands this 25th day of March 2025 by the Durham Select Board:

Joseph Roy, Chair

Josh Klein-Golden, Vice Chair

Joseph Tomm

Heather Roy

Deborah Oliver