

Wilton-Lyndeborough Taxpayers

2018 VOTER GUIDE

for WILTON TOWN MEETING

Updated 3/5/2018

The Wilton Town Meeting will take place at the **Florence Rideout Elementary School** on **Thursday, March 15th at 7 PM**. The Town will vote on a number of distinct measures, which are called “Warrant Articles”. This voter guide has been prepared by the *Wilton-Lyndeborough Taxpayers*, which is a group of residents of both towns whose goal is to ensure fiscally-responsible government and to help keep taxes low.

Visit our website and sign up for e-mail updates at **www.WLtaxpayers.org**.

Warrant Article #	Recommendation	
1-6	SEE NOTE	Articles 1 through 6 are not voted on at the Town Meeting. Instead, they are voted on at the Town Election, which takes place this year on Tuesday, March 13 th . Vote at Town Hall. Polls open at 8 AM and close no earlier than 7 PM. There is a separate VOTER GUIDE FOR WILTON TOWN ELECTIONS. Please download it from www.wltaxpayers.org.
7	NEUTRAL	Wilton Town Budget: This article would pass the proposed budget, which amounts to \$5,278,969. There are certain line-items which are a concern, including \$5000 for Wilton Main Street Association and \$1500 for the Wilton “Community Center”.
8	NEUTRAL, with concerns	<p>\$100,000 to create an EXPENDABLE trust fund for the repair, maintenance, or demolition of the New Reservoir Dam: The State of NH has demanded that the town make repairs to the dam, and could levy fines against the town if those repairs are not made. While it seems clear that the issues with the dam need to be addressed, it is unclear what the best approach will be or how much it will cost. It would be preferable to have a clear plan for addressing the issues and a clear idea of the associated costs.</p> <p>According to the NH Municipal Association "Expendable trust funds are most often used as maintenance reserve funds, to insure that money is available in the event of situations such as equipment or building failure. Unlike capital reserve funds, which are usually established to fund a particular project several years</p>

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		down the road, expendable trust funds are usually established to address immediate needs that may arise during the year, such as repairs to an ambulance or roof. If immediate access to maintenance reserve funds is needed, then it is advisable to name agents to those reserve funds in order to insure that expenditures from those funds can be authorized without waiting until the next annual meeting of the legislative body.” (emphasis added) (Source: https://www.nhmunicipal.org/TownAndCity/Article/5).
9	NO	\$20,000 to develop the New Reservoir as a public recreation area. This article is NOT recommended by the Town Budget Committee. It is highly likely that the town will incur additional costs if this measure is approved. Maintenance costs such as trash removal, porta-potty rentals, and road/parking upkeep are unknown. Neither the plans nor the costs of Phase 2 and Phase 3 are known. There are also significant concerns about liability, criminal mischief, & demands on police/fire/EMS. In addition, it would be prudent to wait until repairs have been made to the dam before proceeding with this project.
10	YES	Calling for a Study prior to performing any work on the New Reservoir as a public recreation area project. (by petition). It is prudent to understand the full impact of the proposed recreation area project before doing any work on it. This article was submitted by petition of 25 or more registered Wilton voters.
11	NEUTRAL	Authorizing the Selectmen to lease town land to the Quinn Brothers Corp.: The land in question has been leased to the Quinn Brothers Corp. for some time. This article would authorize the Selectmen to negotiate a new lease agreement for continued use of the land by the Quinn Brothers Corp.
12	NO	Allowing the operation of KENO within the town of Wilton: KENO would help to fund full-day kindergarten programs throughout the state. It could potentially have a detrimental impact on the character of the town.
13	NO	Lease of a new police cruiser: As a capital lease, this purchase is similar to an installment loan. Because there is an escape clause, voters could <i>technically</i> choose <u>not</u> to continue the lease in future years; but if they were to do so, the town would forfeit any accumulated equity in the cruiser (i.e. the leasing company would take the property back). In practical terms, therefore, this is very much like an installment loan. New Hampshire law dictates that in order for the town to go into debt, a two-thirds vote is required. The proposed lease arrangement is a workaround that effectively creates a future obligation without requiring a two-thirds vote. Historically the town has financed purchases of capital equipment by putting money into capital reserve funds and buying property when it has saved a sufficient amount of money. This is the appropriate way to make capital equipment purchases.
14	NO	Lease of a dump truck: The proposed lease arrangement is a workaround that effectively creates a future obligation without requiring a two-thirds vote. (See notes re: warrant article 13.)

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15	NEUTRAL with concerns	Discontinuation of Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund: Together with warrant article 16, this would move the balance of the capital reserve fund into a <u>revolving</u> fund. This would enable expenditures from the revolving fund without voter input. This is a concern for taxpayers. (See notes re: warrant article 16.)
16	NEUTRAL with concerns	Creation of Ambulance Service Revolving Fund: According to the NH Municipal Association: “ Revolving funds segregate a specific revenue source similar to a special revenue fund; but a revolving fund also provides immediate access for expenditure from those funds, much like naming agents to an expendable trust fund. Private police detail is an excellent example of an activity that is well suited to a revolving fund. Finally, it should be noted that expenditures from all of these funds are limited to the specific purpose for which the fund was established.” (emphasis added) (Source: https://www.nhmunicipal.org/TownAndCity/Article/5).
17	NO	Lease of a new ambulance: The proposed lease arrangement is a workaround that effectively creates a future obligation without requiring a two-thirds vote. (See warrant article 13.)
18	NO	Lease of 2 cardiac monitors: The proposed lease arrangement is a workaround that effectively creates a future obligation without requiring a two-thirds vote. (See warrant article 13.)
19	YES	\$9000 for purchase of pagers for the Ambulance Service.
20	NEUTRAL	Combining the offices of Town Clerk and Tax Collector.
21	YES	Establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund of Fire Dept. Air Packs, and \$50,000 into the fund.
22	YES	\$50,000 for Fire Dept. turnout gear.
23	NO	\$14,770 for construction and installation of new “Welcome to Wilton” signs: The town already has signs which do not need to be replaced. Additional downtown signs “to indicate anchor attractions” are unnecessary and provide no clear benefit.
24	NO	\$13,500 for design options for the next phase of Riverwalk: This expense would only cover design work for a next phase in the project, which will presumably involve substantial additional expenses. The Riverwalk project should not proceed to phase 2, as it will increase taxes but will provide little to no benefit to the community.
25	NO	\$30,000 for document scanning and imaging services: Before proceeding with this project, the town should organize and prepare the materials to be archived, and should solicit additional bids in order to have a clearer idea as to actual costs.
26	YES	\$56,000 for the Bridges Capital Reserve Fund.
27	YES	\$75,000 for the Public Works Garage Capital Reserve Fund.
28	YES	\$100,000 for the Fire Dept. Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund.
29	YES	\$70,000 for the Town Hall Heating System Capital Reserve Fund.
30	YES	Establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund for Town Hall Fire Protection, and \$34,000 into the fund.

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31	YES	Discontinuation of the Cooley Park Improvement Project Capital Reserve Fund: This will return money to the general fund.
32	YES	Authorizing the town to pay for fund investment management services.
33	NO	Authorizing the selectmen to buy and sell real estate on behalf of the town: This is an especially IMPORTANT warrant article, as it would put the power to make very large purchases (land and buildings) into the hands of just 2 people (a majority of Selectmen). Purchases of real estate are a significant decision in which voters should <u>always</u> participate. Although RSA 41:14a would require Selectmen to hold hearings prior to purchasing real estate on behalf of the town, the Selectmen are under no obligation to follow the recommendations of the Conservation Commission, the Planning Board, or the voters. They can act unilaterally.
34	NO	Resolution calling for the Selectmen to oppose pipelines everywhere throughout the nation and oppose taking of land by eminent domain; and calling for the promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy (by petition): This article is not directly related to town business, and the town meeting is not an appropriate platform for debating issues that are more appropriately addressed at a state or national level.
35	YES	Accepting the report of Agents, Auditors, and Committees or Officers.
36	TBD	To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

