



NORWICH PROPOSED ARTICLES



2020-21 Warning Articles & Explanations

ARTICLE 1: Elect a Moderator of the Town and School District meeting for one year.

The moderator is voted upon annually and presides over town meeting.

ARTICLE 2: Elect Town and School District Officers for terms starting in 2020.

School district officer positions are voted upon annually. There are five Norwich School Board positions. Four of those are staggered three-year terms and one position for a two-year term, elected in odd numbered years. All positions also serve on the Dresden School Board, however the two-year position does not hold voting privileges in Dresden. This year there are two board seats coming up for election in March, a 3-year term.

ARTICLE 3: Hear and act on the reports of the officers of the Town and Town School District.

Each year the Norwich School District presents the proposed budget to the voters at Town Meeting. In odd numbered years the School District presents first, in even numbered years the Town presents first.

ARTICLE 4: To authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year in accordance with the provisions of 16 VSA § 562(9).

In the event that school district tax revenues are not received in a timely manner, the school district requests authorization from the electorate to borrow money to cover necessary expenditures.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District determine and fix the salaries of the School Board members in the sum of \$500 each per year in accordance with the provisions of 16 VSA § 562(5)?

The salary for school board members is voted upon annually. This figure is unchanged from last year.

ARTICLE 6: Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District approve the school board to expend \$6,215,808, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing 2020-21 fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$19,584 per equalized pupil (this includes the Dresden assessment for 7-12th grade). This projected spending per equalized pupil is 3.77% higher than spending for the current year.

While the budget number shown above is solely for the Marion Cross School, the Education Spending Per Equalized Pupil includes the Dresden Assessment. While the gross expenditure amount of the Marion Cross School budget is increasing by 5.99%; the state's definition of net "Education Spending per Pupil" (that is, net education spending, after the application of appropriate income, divided by the number of equalized pupils) is increasing by 3.77%. This is the result of an increase of \$351,163 in the MCS direct budget and \$270,311 from the 20-21 budgeted Dresden District assessment to Norwich. The estimated homestead tax rate is \$1.9111 or, a 0.1043 cent increase, which is 5.77% more than the current year's rate of \$1.8068. Several of the parameters are set by the State of Vermont throughout early Spring. Certainly changes in the parameters as they are issued by the state will alter the tax rate estimate presented. Other notable differences

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include changes in the homestead property yield from \$10,648 to \$10,883, a severe drop in our Common Level Appraisal (CLA) from 98.09% to 94.16% and an early estimated equalized pupils count from 578.61 to 580.19. An estimated homestead tax rate of \$1.9111 would result in a tax rate increase of \$417 on a \$400,000 home.

ARTICLE 7: Transact any other business that may legally come before the annual meeting of the Norwich Town School District.

For more detailed budget information see the Annual Town and School District Report, mailed to all residents, or visit the website for School Administrative Unit #70, www.sau70.org and click on the "School Boards" link and Budgets option.