

**SAMPLE BALLOT
TOWN MEETING ELECTION
KITTERY, MAINE
JUNE 12, 2018**

Instructions to Voters

- ◆ Fill in the oval next to your Yes or No choice, like this: ●
- ◆ To have your vote count, do not erase or cross out your choice.
- ◆ If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

Article 2: Shall the town vote to authorize Town Council to transfer up to \$125,000 from unassigned funds (unencumbered surplus) and appropriate and expend up to \$125,000 when necessary into account #2022 Compensated Absences, to maintain a positive fund balance to pay for accrued vacation and /or sick leave to settle any unpaid benefits owed to retiring employees in FY'19?

Town Council Recommends - Vote: Yes 7 No 0

Explanation: The purpose of this article is to provide funds from the town's unassigned funds (unencumbered surplus) to pay for accrued benefits owed when a municipal employee retires or leaves. The reserve account balance is currently \$148,119. The unassigned fund balance (unencumbered surplus) is currently \$5,217,892.

☐ YES

☐ NO

Article 3: Shall the town vote to authorize Town Council to transfer up to \$25,000 from unassigned funds (unencumbered surplus) and appropriate and expend up to \$25,000 when necessary for the purpose of paying the town's cost on accepted insurance claims against the town?

Town Council Recommends - Vote: Yes 7 No 0

Explanation: The purpose of this article is to provide funds from the town's unassigned funds (unencumbered surplus) when and if necessary to pay the deductible and other associated costs on insurance claims that may be made in the fiscal year. The unassigned fund balance (unencumbered surplus) is currently \$5, 217, 892.

☐ YES

☐ NO

Article 4: Shall the town vote to authorize Town Council to transfer up to \$100,000 from unassigned funds (unencumbered surplus) and appropriate and expend up to \$100,000 when necessary for the purpose of providing the town's match to federal, state and non-profit grants?

Town Council Recommends - Vote: Yes 7 No 0

Explanation: The Town Council expects continued applications to be filed for grants in a variety of areas by different town departments to assist with the operations and capital purchases. These grants, if successful, often require a local match to be raised. The purpose of this article is to provide funds from the town's unassigned funds (unencumbered surplus) when and if necessary for the purpose of meeting grant match requirements. The unassigned fund balance (unencumbered surplus) is currently \$5,217,892.

☐ YES

☐ NO

Article 5: Shall the town vote to authorize Town Council to transfer up to \$40,000 from unassigned funds (unencumbered surplus) and appropriate and expend up to \$40,000 when necessary for the purpose of covering shortfalls in the FY'19 town departments' fuel accounts due to the unpredictable fuel pricing markets?

Town Council Recommends - Vote: Yes 7 No 0

Explanation: This account would provide departments, who have exhausted their allocated fuel budgets, access to emergency fuel funds. The Town Council favored keeping the FY'19 fuel and utility accounts as low as possible, with the concept of this article exposing surplus funds as a safety net in case of an unstable market for fuel. The unassigned fund balance (unencumbered surplus) is currently \$5,217,892.

☐ YES

☐ NO

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Article 6: Shall the town vote to authorize Town Council to transfer up to \$40,000 from unassigned funds (unencumbered surplus) and appropriate and expend up to \$40,000 when necessary for the purpose of providing the town's General Assistance Program as required by town, state and federal laws in FY'19?

Town Council Recommends - Vote: Yes 7 No 0

Explanation: The General Assistance Program is budgeted from the town's operational budget each year. The program assists town citizens with welfare type services by following very strict state and federal guidelines for income eligibility within the General Assistance Ordinance. This article proposes to create a method, as in past years, for the Town Council to keep the General Assistance budget reasonable. If the General Assistance costs exceed the budget, this article would allow the Council to transfer an amount up to \$40,000 from surplus to cover the overage. The unassigned fund balance (unencumbered surplus) is currently \$5,217,892.

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

Article 7: Shall the Town vote to authorize Town Council to transfer an amount up to \$50,000 from the unassigned funds (unencumbered surplus) and appropriate and expend up to \$50,000 when necessary for the purpose of paying for emergency repairs and energy efficiency improvements to town-owned facilities that are not contemplated in the regular FY'19 operating budget?

Town Council Recommends - Vote: Yes 7 No 0

Explanation: Occasionally, repairs to town facilities are needed that have not been budgeted. In addition, energy efficiency projects are being identified to further save the town funds. This Article allows the Town Council the discretion to make emergency facility repairs and undertake energy efficiency projects through the use of unassigned funds (unencumbered surplus). The unassigned fund balance (unencumbered surplus) is currently \$5,217,892.

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

Article 8: Shall the Town vote to authorize Town Council to transfer an amount not to exceed \$50,000 from the unassigned funds (unencumbered surplus) and appropriate and expend said amount for a Municipal Property Tax Assistance program to credit property taxes owed for certain residents that meet the program requirements?

Town Council Recommends - Vote: Yes 7 No 0

Explanation: The Town Council wishes to implement the Municipal Property Tax Assistance program allowed by 36 MRS §6232. The program allows taxpayers of over a certain age, income level, and other qualification requirements to receive a credit on their property taxes each year. The program is designed to assist seniors with their property tax obligations and make it easier for them to remain in their homes. The unassigned fund balance (unencumbered surplus) is currently \$5,217,892.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Article 9: Shall the Town vote to authorize Town Council to transfer an amount not to exceed \$450,000 from the unassigned funds (unencumbered surplus) and appropriate and expend up to \$450,000 for the replacement of the Government Street Wharf for commercial and leisure use?

Town Council Recommends - Vote: Yes 7 No 0

Explanation: The Government Street Wharf was built circa 1955. In 2017 the infrastructure was found to be structurally deficient and in need of replacement. A weight restriction needed to be placed on the pier for safety purposes, reducing the usability as a working waterfront for fishermen and other commercial users and the general public. Recent storms have exacerbated the condition of the infrastructure. The town has applied for a Small Harbor Improvement Program (SHIP) grant to offset the costs, however the grant may not be considered and awarded in a sufficient timeframe to prevent further deterioration and restrictions on the pier. The unassigned fund balance (unencumbered surplus) is currently \$5,217,892.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

You Have Completed Voting