

2025 Town Warrant

Town of Webster, New Hampshire

THE POLLS WILL BE OPEN FROM 10:00 AM TO 7:00 PM TO ACT ON THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES

To the inhabitants of the Town of Webster in the County of Merrimack in the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town Affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said Webster on Tuesday, the 11th day of March 2025, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, to act upon the following subjects:

1. To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year. **(BY BALLOT)**
2. Are you in favor of amending Article XI Impact Fee, Section B Definitions, of the Webster Zoning Ordinance to be as follows; The Planning Board proposes amending the Impact Fee Ordinance to reflect that structures destroyed by fire or natural disaster must be rebuilt within three years in order to avoid the imposition of impact fees.

New development shall not include the replacement of an existing mobile home, or the reconstruction of a structure that has been destroyed by fire or natural disaster where there is no change in its size, density or type of use, and where there is no net increase in demand on the public capital facilities of the Town of Webster.

“Provided that such reconstruction happens within three years of the structure’s destruction. The Planning Board may extend the three-year time frame if there are extenuating circumstances.” (BY BALLOT)

The Planning Board recommends 5 to 0.

You are hereby notified and warned that the Annual Business Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: March 15, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM

**Location: Grange Hall
945 Battle Street
Webster, New Hampshire 03303**

3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Million Nine Hundred Forty-Three Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Three Dollars. (\$1,943,853)** for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Majority vote required)

Selectboard Recommends (3 to 0)

4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five Hundred Thirty Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$530,200)** to be added to the following established Capital Reserve Funds under RSA 35:1. (Majority vote required) This is a special warrant article.

Bridges and Culverts	50,000
EMS-Medical Equipment	6,000
Fire Department Air Packs	20,000
Fire Department Bunker Gear	3,000
Fire Department Dry Hydrant Repairs	500
Fire Department Emergency Apparatus	115,000
Fire Department-Mobil Communication	10,000
Highway Equipment	1,000
Highway Land/Building Fund	10,000
Highways and Roads	270,000
History	100
Police Cruiser	22,000
Police Equipment	1,000
Public Safety Building	2,500
Reappraisal	2,500
Town Hall Improvements	7,500
Town Office Equipment	100
Webster/Hopkinton Transfer Station	9,000

Selectboard Recommends (3 to 0)

5. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **Eighty-Five Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$85,450)** to be added to the following established Expendable Trust Funds per RSA 31:10-a. (Majority Vote Required) This is a special warrant article.

Compensated Absences	100
Fire Department Equipment	1,000
Forest Fire	2,000
Highway	5,000
Legal (Webster)	1,000
Municipal Property Maintenance	18,000
Police Vehicle Maintenance	750

Road Preservation	50,000
Technology Fund	7,500
Welfare	100

Selectboard Recommends (3 to 0)

6. To see if the Town will vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year under the provisions of RSA 31:98-a for unanticipated expenses that may arise and further raise and appropriate the sum of **\$18,279** to put into the fund. This sum is to come from the unassigned Fund Balance. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the General Fund. (Majority vote required) This is an Individual Warrant Article.

Selectboard Recommends (3 to 0)

7. To see if the Town will vote the sum of **\$10,000** to help offset the cost of the bond for “Funds to Repair Dam” passed at the Pillsbury Lake Water District Meeting held August 5, 2006. This sum is to come from the unassigned Fund balance and will not have an effect on this year’s tax rate. (Majority vote required) This is an individual Warrant Article.

Selectboard Recommends (3 to 0)

8. To see if the Town will vote to release the History Committee funds held in Trust to the General Fund of the Town of Webster, and further to release those same funds to the Webster Historical Society for the sole purpose of publishing the next Town of Webster History Book in 2033 or later.

(Received by Petition)

Selectboard Recommends (3 to 0)

9. Property Taxes for Private Education: A Call for Responsible Use

Whereas, taxpayers have a right to know how their money is spent and deserve clear, verifiable evidence that it is being spent wisely and delivering results; and

Whereas, taxpayer dollars are being diverted from public schools to private and religious education through Education Freedom Accounts (vouchers), and this shift does not reduce public school expenses, leaving local taxpayers to cover the difference through higher property taxes; and

Whereas, unlike public schools, private education funded by taxpayers through vouchers lacks key accountability measures, such as reporting how funds are used, tracking student performance, ensuring services for students with disabilities, and conducting background checks for staff:

Therefore, we the voters of Webster, New Hampshire, call on our state elected officials to uphold their duty to fiscal responsibility by rejecting any expansion of taxpayer funding for private education until we have full accountability, transparency, and a sustainable funding plan that ensure no further strain on public schools or local property taxpayers.

We further direct the Webster Select Board to deliver this warrant article and results in writing to the New Hampshire Governor and members of the State Legislature within thirty days of this vote.

(Received by Petition)

10. To Transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.