

TOWN OF SKOWHEGAN, MAINE
ANNUAL
TOWN MEETING WARRANT
STATE OF MAINE
 June 09, 2025 at 7:00 P.M.
Municipal Building - Opera House
AND
SECRET BALLOT ELECTION
 June 10, 2025 from 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.
Municipal Building - Council Room

Somerset, ss.

To David Bucknam, Constable of the Town of Skowhegan, Maine in the County of Somerset:

Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine you are hereby requested to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Skowhegan in said County and State, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet in the **Opera House in the Skowhegan Municipal Building**, in said Town on **Monday, the ninth day of June, A.D., 2025 at seven o'clock in the evening**, to transact all business as herein enumerated in the articles of the Town Warrant.

And, to notify and warn said voters to meet in the **Council Room in the Skowhegan Municipal Building** in said Town, on **Tuesday, the tenth day of June, A.D., 2025**, then and there to act upon Article 2 by secret ballot as set out below, the polling hours therefore to be from **7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.**

ARTICLE 1. To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2. To choose, by ballot, the following Town Officials, namely, Two Selectboard Members, for three-year terms; One Assessor, for a three-year term; One Overseer of the Poor, for a three-year term; One Park Commissioner, for a five-year term; Three Directors of RSU54/SAD54, for three-year terms and One Director of RSU54/SAD54, for one-year term.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,814,424.00 for General Government.

Department	Budget Committee	Votes	Selectmen	Votes
Finance Department	\$1,102,903.00	5/1	\$1,102,903.00	5/0
Municipal Building Maintenance	\$174,025.00	4/2	\$174,025.00	4/1
Assessing	\$219,949.00	4/2	\$219,949.00	5/0

Town Meeting Warrant

June 09, 2025

Town Manager	\$247,026.00	4/2	\$247,026.00	5/0
Planning & Ordinance Administration	\$22,626.00	6/0	\$22,626.00	5/0
Code Enforcement	\$132,062.00	6/0	\$132,062.00	5/0
Employee Benefits	\$331,779.00	6/0	\$331,779.00	5/0
Town Insurances	\$331,080.00	6/0	\$331,080.00	5/0
Economic & Community Development	\$252,974.00	5/1	\$252,974.00	5/0
General Government Total	\$2,814,424.00		\$2,814,424.00	

ARTICLE 4. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,748,278.00 for Police Department. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 3/3 vote recommend passage of this article)

ARTICLE 5. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$376,258.00 for three new proposed Police Officers, for the Police Department. This amount would be in addition to the Police Department budget and is not included the current figures, as proposed in the FY2026 budget book. (The Selectmen with a 4/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 4/2 vote recommend passage of this article)

ARTICLE 6. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,618,868.00 for Fire Department. (The Selectmen with a 4/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 5/2 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 7. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$81,500.00 for Public Safety Building. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote recommend \$81,500.00 and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend \$71,500.00.)

ARTICLE 8. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$657,934.00 for Other Protection. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 9. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$90,123.00 for Health and Human services.

Department	Budget Committee	Votes	Selectmen	Votes
General Assistance	\$90,123.00	5/1	\$90,123.00	5/0
Health Department	\$0.00		\$0.00	
General Assistance/Health Dept. Total	\$90,123.00		\$90,123.00	

ARTICLE 10. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$994,264.00 for Waste Water and Pollution Control. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 5/1 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 11. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,283,410.00 for Solid Waste and Recycling. (The Selectmen with a 3/2 vote recommend \$1,283,410.00 and the Budget Committee with a 7/0 vote recommend \$1,111,624.00.)

ARTICLE 12. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$901,585.00 for Public Works – Summer Roads Maintenance. (The Selectmen with a 3/1/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 4/3 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 13. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,130,302.00 for Public Works – Winter Roads Maintenance. (The Selectmen with a 3/1/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 4/3 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 14. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$310,000.00 for Public Works – Vehicle Maintenance. (The Selectmen with a 3/1/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 4/3 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 15. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$128,766.00 for the care of cemeteries. (The Selectmen with a 4/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 4/2 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 16. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$767,649.00 for Parks and Recreation. (The Selectmen with a 4/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 5/1 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 17. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,896,262.00 for Capital Expenditures/Debt Retirement. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 18. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$420,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for the Pollution Control Plant. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 19. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$115,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for the Recreation Department. (The Selectmen with a 3/1/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 20. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$129,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for the Municipal Building. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 21. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$85,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for the Solid Waste Department. (The Selectmen with a 4/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 22. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$99,500.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for the Police Department. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 23. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$159,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for Public Works Equipment. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 7/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 24. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,277,400.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for Public Works Roads and Sidewalks. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 7/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 25. To see if the town will vote to accept and carry forward, in a separate account, sums that may be received from the State Department of Transportation Local Road Assistance Program estimated at \$174,308.00. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 7/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 26. To see if the town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend the amounts voted in Articles 23 and 24 from the Capital Improvement Program/Public Works Roads and Sidewalks account for the town's share of the following proposed projects: Paving/work planned for St. James Street, Chestnut Street, St. John Street, Merrill Street, Maple Street, Lawton Street, Leavitt Street, York Street, Alder Street, Bridge Street, Pennell Street, Turner Avenue, Main Street, Heather Drive, Back Road (Bigelow-Rowe), Burrill Hill Road, Fairview Avenue (Sidewalk), Prescelly Drive and Oak Pond Cross (Culvert). (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 27. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$304,500.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for the Fire Department. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 7/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 28. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for Economic & Community Development. (The Selectmen with a 4/0/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 29. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for Cemeteries. (The Selectmen with a 4/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 4/2 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 30. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for the Planning Department. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 31. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for Public Works Buildings. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 7/0 vote recommends passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 32. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 for Capital Expenditures/Capital Reserve Funds for Street Lights. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 7/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

Note: Organizations were informed that although the Town of Skowhegan does not require that petitions be filed in order to request funds, it is the only way to make sure that the requested amount appears on the Warrant. The Selectmen voted on October 23, 2018 to change the signature requirement on petitions for funding requests from 10% to 5% of voters from the last gubernatorial election. 169 signatures, budget information and answers to questions sent to requesting organizations were required for funding request petitions this year.

ARTICLE 33. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$208,000.00 for Skowhegan Free Public Library. The Community Service Organization's request by petition is \$208,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 3/2 vote recommend \$150,000.00 and the Budget Committee with a 6/1 vote recommend \$198,000.00.)

ARTICLE 34. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 for Coburn Park Commission. The Community Service Organization's request by petition is \$15,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 7/0 vote recommend \$12,000.00.)

ARTICLE 35. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 for Skowhegan History House. The Community Service Organization's request by petition is \$15,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 7/0 vote recommend \$12,000.00.)

ARTICLE 36. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$83,000.00 for Main Street Skowhegan. The Community Service Organization's request by petition is \$83,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 4/1 vote recommend \$83,000.00 and the Budget Committee with a 5/2 vote recommend \$78,750.00.)

ARTICLE 37. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000.00 for Skowhegan Regional Chamber of Commerce. The Community Service Organization's request by petition is \$35,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 4/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 7/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 38. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$23,000.00 for Lake George Regional Park. The Community Service Organization's request by petition is \$23,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 4/1 vote recommend \$23,000.00 and the Budget Committee with a 7/0 vote recommend \$21,000.00.)

ARTICLE 39. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 for Lights Up Productions. The Community Service Organization's request by petition is \$50,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 4/0/1 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/1 vote recommend \$0.00.)

ARTICLE 40. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 for KVCAP Transportation Systems. The Human Service Agency's request by petition is \$15,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 3/2 vote and the Budget Committee with a 7/0 vote recommend \$0.00.)

ARTICLE 41. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000.00 for Family Violence Project. The Human Service Agency's request by petition is \$6,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote recommend and the Budget Committee with a 7/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 42. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000.00 for Kennebec Behavioral Health. The Human Service Agency's request by petition is \$6,000.00. The Selectmen with a 3/2 vote recommend \$0.00 and the Budget Committee with a 6/1 vote recommend \$6,000.00.)

ARTICLE 43. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,228.00 for Spectrum Generations. The Human Service Agency's request by petition is \$9,228.00. The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 6/1 vote recommend \$0.00.)

ARTICLE 44. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000.00 for Hospice Volunteers of Somerset County. The Human Service Agency's request by petition is \$30,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 7/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 45. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,017.00 for Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Center. The Human Service Agency's request by petition is \$3,017.00. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 7/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 46. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,000.00 for Skowhegan Community Food Cupboard. The Human Service Agency's request by petition is \$18,000.00. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 7/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 47. To see if the Town will vote to apply FY 2026 operational revenues in the amount of \$2,711,035.00 to offset the FY 2026 appropriations. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote and the Budget Committee with a 5/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 48. To see if the town will vote to appropriate an amount from the undesignated fund balance, not to exceed \$1,000,000.00, toward one or more of the following purposes:

- a. to appropriate funds in the amount of \$150,000.00 to the Public Works Roads and Sidewalks Reserve Account, Road Resurfacing designation.
- b. \$850,000.00 to reduce the tax commitment. (The Selectmen with a 5/0 vote recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 49. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to transfer an amount not to exceed 1% of the total town budget between budget categories as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during fiscal year 2026. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 50. To see if the Town will vote to establish September 15, 2025, or 30-days after the commitment date of taxes, whichever is later, as the date when the first installment of taxes shall be due and payable and March 16, 2026 as the date when the second installment of taxes shall be due and payable and to see if the Town will fix the rate of 7.5% interest to be charged on all taxes unpaid after said dates. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 51. To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506-A to fix the rate of 3.5% interest to be paid on overpaid or abated taxes. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 52. To see if the Town will vote to apply as much of the yearly overlay as may be necessary to fund property tax abatements and applicable interest granted during fiscal year 2026. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 53. To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 506, to authorize the tax collector and treasurer to accept the prepayment of taxes not yet committed. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 54. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to enter into a standard agreement with year-round residential taxpayers establishing a "Tax Club" payment plan for property taxes, whereby: (1) the taxpayer agrees to pay specified monthly payments to the Town based on his/her estimated and actual tax obligation for current year property taxes; (2) the Town agrees not to charge interest or penalties on timely payments made pursuant to the tax club agreement;

(3) the Town authorizes the Tax Collector to accept tax club payments for current taxes which may be due prior to the commitment of those taxes; (4) the agreement is automatically terminated if a scheduled payment is late, and the taxpayer then becomes subject to the same due dates and interest dates and rates as other taxpayers who are not participating in a tax club; (5) only taxpayers who do not have any outstanding tax obligation for prior tax years are eligible to participate in the tax club program; and (6) taxpayers wishing to participate in a tax club for a particular property tax year shall enter into agreement with the Town by a publicly-advertised deadline determined by the Tax Collector. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 55. To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept and expend, on behalf of the Town, grant funds from state government agencies, federal government agencies, or private organizations for any purpose they deem in the best interest of the Town. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 56. To see if the Town, as the Legislative body will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen approving, applying for and accepting all Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), and to make such assurances, assume such responsibilities and exercise such authority as are necessary and reasonable to implement such programs with the understanding that should the intended National Objective of the CDBG program not be met, all CDBG funds must be repaid to the State of Maine CDBG program. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 57. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all of the money received from the State for snowmobile registrations to the Skowhegan Sno-Hawks Snowmobile Club for the maintenance of their system or network of snowmobile trails, on the condition that those trails be open in snow season to the public for outdoor recreation purposes at no charge, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an agreement with the Club, under such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen may deem advisable, for that purpose. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 58. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of by the most prudent means possible, any equipment, vehicles, furniture or other non-real estate town property that is no longer necessary to town operations. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 59. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, on behalf of the town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the town for non-payment of taxes due thereon, on such terms as they deem advisable and to issue quit-claim deeds for such property. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 60. To see if the Town will vote to allow the Town Treasurer, after Board of Selectmen approval, to file a waiver of automatic foreclosure at the Registry of Deeds, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. § 944, on real estate that may be burdensome for the Town. (The Selectmen recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 61. To see if the Town will vote to repeal the Ordinance Governing Victualer's Licenses for Food Service Establishments, Innkeepers, and Lodging Houses. Adopted March 8, 1999. (The Selectboard recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 62. To see if the Town will vote to repeal and replace the Sign Ordinance. Last amended at Town Meeting June 10, 2024. (The Selectboard recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 63. To see if the Town will vote to repeal the Public Carriages Ordinance. Last amended November 26, 2002. (The Selectboard recommend passage of this article.)

ARTICLE 64. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Fire Plan Review Ordinance. (The Selectboard recommend passage of this article.)

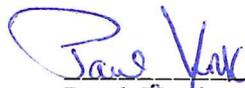
ARTICLE 65. To see if the voters will vote to accept an easement from New Balance Athletic Company to enhance the storm drainage system under Prescelly Drive and over and under New Balance property off Walnut Street.

The Registrar will hold hours for the purpose of revising and correcting the list of voters on Thursday, June 5, 2025 and Friday, June 6, 2025 from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.; Monday, June 9, 2025 from noon to 4:00 P.M. and from 6:00 P.M. to the close of the Town Meeting and Tuesday, June 10, 2025 from 7:00 A.M. to close of polls at 8:00 P.M.

You are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting in a public and conspicuous place at least seven (7) days before the holding of said meeting.

Hereof fail not and have this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place mentioned.

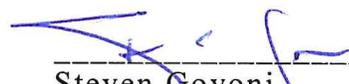
Given under our hands at Skowhegan, Maine the 28th day of May 2025.



Paul York, Chairman



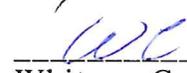
Amber Lambke, Vice Chairman



Steven Govoni



Elijah Soll



Whitney Cunliffe

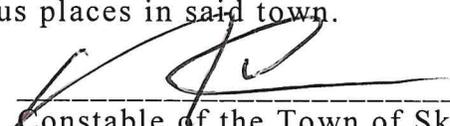
Selectmen of the Town of Skowhegan

CONSTABLE'S RETURN

Skowhegan, Maine

May 29, 2025

Pursuant to the within warrant to me directed, I have notified and warned inhabitants of said town, qualified as therein expressed, to meet at said time, place, and for the purpose therein named, by posting a copy of said warrant, attested by me at the Municipal Building, Skowhegan Community Center and Hannaford, being public and conspicuous places in said town.



Constable of the Town of Skowhegan