

TOWN OF GOFFSTOWN NEW HAMPSHIRE



2006 Town Official Ballot VOTERS' GUIDE

This guide was prepared by town staff to assist the Goffstown taxpayer in understanding the articles, which will appear on the official ballot for the second session to be held on **Tuesday March 14, 2006 between 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM** at the polls – Bartlett Elementary School and Goffstown Area High School.

TOWN BALLOT: If all the Selectmen and Budget Committee recommended articles pass, then there will be an estimated increase of 24 cents in the town portion of the 2006 property tax rate. This does **not** include the impact of petitioned article #30 which would create additional increases on the 2006 and 2007 property tax rates.

Your comments regarding this newsletter are welcomed and should be submitted to the Administration Office at 497-8990 x100 or email sued@ci.goffstown.nh.us.

**ARTICLE 1
ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

SELECTMEN

- For 3 Years** **Vote for not more than Two**
- Nicholas "Nick" Campasano
- John A. Caprio
- Richard Gamache
- Pamela V. Manney
- Gossett W. McRae
- Suzanne Tremblay
- Howard Witherspoon
- Write-In _____
- Write-In _____

BUDGET COMMITTEE

- For 3 Years** **Vote for not more than Four**
- Daniel Cloutier
- Steve Fournier
- Philip Plourde
- Calvin Pratt
- Write-In _____
- Write-In _____
- Write-In _____
- Write-In _____

BUDGET COMMITTEE

- For 2 Years** **Vote for not more than One**
- Write-In _____

BUDGET COMMITTEE

- For 1 Year** **Vote for not more than One**
- Write-In _____

CEMETERY TRUSTEES

- For 3 Years** **Vote for not more than One**
- Leon H. Konieczny
- Write-In _____

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

- For 3 Years** **Vote for not more than Two**
- Richard Chamberlin
- Michael Pelletier
- Write-In _____
- Write-In _____

PLANNING BOARD

- For 3 Years** **Vote for not more than Two**
- Jo Ann Duffy
- Richard Georgantas
- Alan Yeaton
- Write-In _____
- Write-In _____

SEWER COMMISSION

- For 3 Years** **Vote for not more than One**
- James Bouchard
- Write-In _____

SUPERVISORS OF CHECKLIST

- For 6 Years** **Vote for not more than One**
- Christine Daniels
- Write-In _____

TOWN MODERATOR

- For 2 Years** **Vote for not more than One**
- Rodney Stark
- Write-In _____

TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS

- For 3 Years** **Vote for not more than One**
- Calvin Pratt
- Write-In _____

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

- For 3 Years** **Vote for not more than One**
- William Wynne
- Write-In _____

ARTICLE 2

Shall the town adopt Amendment #1 as proposed by the Planning Board, amending the Zoning Ordinance to create a new district (RSBO-1) with supplemental standards as a transition zone around the R-1 district for the purpose of preserving historic fabric and character, while recognizing market forces for use and building change, applied to the following properties along North and South Mast Streets?

Map / Lot to change from R-1 to RSBO-1:

7/74-1	30/23	34/1	37/13	37/34	37/50	38/27
	30/37	34/2	37/14	37/35	37/51	38/28
29/53	30/38	34/3	37/15	37/36	37/52	38/29
29/54	30/39	34/4	37/16	37/37		38/30
29/55	30/40	34/5	37/18	37/38	38/14	38/31
29/56	30/41	34/28	37/19	37/39	38/15	38/32
29/57	30/42		37/25	37/40	38/16	38/33
29/58	30/43	35/1	37/26	37/41	38/17	38/34
	30/43A	35/1A	37/27	37/42	38/18	38/35
29/60	30/44	35/2	37/28	37/43	38/19	
29/61	30/45	35/3	37/29	37/44	38/20	
29/62	30/46		37/30	37/45	38/21	
	30/46A	37/10	37/31	37/46	38/22	
30/21	30/47	37/11	37/32	37/47	38/25	
30/22	30/48	37/12	37/33	37/48	38/26	

Map / Lot to change from RSBOD to RSBO-1

30/46-1						
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The existing RSBO district would be re-titled RSBO-2. The full text of this article is available at the Town Clerk's Office.

Recommended by the Planning Board.

EXPLANATION: Passage of this amendment would create a new district, allowing several more uses by Conditional Use Permit than currently allowed, all with supplemental standards, as a transition zone around the Village Commercial district for the purpose of preserving historic fabric and character, while recognizing requests for land use and building changes. This new zoning district would be applied to properties along North Mast and College Sts. west of the village commercial district and along a portion of South Mast St. east of the village commercial district.

ARTICLE 3

Shall the town adopt Amendment #2 as proposed by the Planning Board, amend the Zoning Ordinance by adding a new Section 2.5.5 to deal with lots split by zoning districts, codifying current practice? (The full text of this article is available at the Town Clerk's Office.)

Recommended by the Planning Board.

EXPLANATION: Passage of this amendment codifies current practice for dealing with lots split by zoning districts.

ARTICLE 4

Shall the town adopt Amendment #3 as proposed by the Planning Board, amending Section 4.2.5.1 of the Zoning Ordinance, clarifying that the height limits for buildings shall be in accordance with the requirements of Section 4.3, Table of Dimensional Regulations? (The full text of this article is available at the Town Clerk's Office.)

Recommended by the Planning Board.

EXPLANATION: Passage of this amendment removes the 2-story limitation for residential districts, while retaining the existing height limitation of 35 feet.

ARTICLE 5

Shall the town adopt Amendment #4 as proposed by the Planning Board, amending Section 6.8 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow internal direction, as well as project identity signs; add a new Section between 6.3.5 and 6.3.6, allowing yard sale signs without sign permits; amend Section 6.12 Special Event Signs, allowing such signs in any district and removing yard sale sign from this category, and amend Section 6.13, Temporary Signs, providing sign standards, rather than requiring a conditional use permit? The full text of this article is available at the Town Clerk’s Office.

Recommended by the Planning Board.

EXPLANATION: Passage of this amendment changes the sign regulations by (1) allowing directional signs within a development project, (2) allowing yard sale signs without sign permits, and (3) allowing temporary signs with performance standards instead of conditional use permits.

ARTICLE 6

Shall the town adopt Amendment #5 as proposed by the Planning Board, amending special exception findings under Section 14.3.2.1 to read as follows:

- 14.3.2.1.1 The specific site is an appropriate location for such use, being consistent with the Town’s current Master Plan;
- 14.3.2.1.2 The size, or frequency, of the use will not significantly alter the character of the neighborhood;
- 14.3.2.1.3 The use will not create a nuisance or hazard to vehicles or pedestrians in a manner that cannot be ameliorated;
- 14.3.2.1.4 The proposed location is of sufficient size to allow for adequate and appropriate facilities for the proper operation of the use; and
- 14.3.2.1.5 The proposed location is of sufficient size to allow for appropriate buffers of this use to adjacent properties.

Recommended by the Planning Board.

EXPLANATION: Passage of this amendment replaces the existing Zoning Board of Adjustment’s Special Exception criteria.

ARTICLE 7

Shall the town adopt Amendment #6 as proposed by the Planning Board, amending Section 9.3.2.3 to lower the allowed density for age-restricted manufactured and to clarify how density is to be measured? The full text of this article is available at the Town Clerk’s Office.

Recommended by the Planning Board.

EXPLANATION: Passage of this amendment would result in the maximum density of age restricted housing projects being reduced from 250% to 125% of that otherwise allowed, and be calculated based on only usable land.

ARTICLE 8

Shall the town adopt Amendment #7 as submitted by petition, amending the glossary by adding:

Age Restricted Housing – Age restricted housing shall mean housing which requires one resident over 55 years of age and prohibits residents under 18 years of age. To qualify as Age Restricted Housing, said housing shall include the following significant services and facilities specifically designed to meet the physical and social needs of older persons (as listed by NH Commission on Human Rights, Chapter 302.03 c).

- 1. Programs designed to provide a social life for residents;
- 2. Continuing education programs of interest to residents;
- 3. Information and counseling services;
- 4. Recreational programs;
- 5. Homemaker services;
- 6. Services designed to assist residents with the maintenance and upkeep of buildings and grounds;
- 7. An accessible physical environment;
- 8. Emergency and preventable health care programs;
- 9. Congregate dining facilities;
- 10. Transportation to facilitate access to social services;
- 11. Referral services; and
- 12. Services designed to encourage and assist residents to use the services and facilities available to them.

Submitted by petition.

Not Recommended by the Planning Board.

EXPLANATION: Passage of this amendment would require ‘significant services and facilities’ for all age restricted housing projects, notwithstanding the type of construction or the size of the project. It is the opinion of the Town’s Attorney that passage of this article would be a violation of state and federal law.

ARTICLE 9

Shall the Town of Goffstown raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Sixteen Million Three Hundred Sixteen Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$16,316,220)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Sixteen Million Three Hundred Two Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Six dollars (\$16,302,486), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Goffstown or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. NOTE: This article (operating budget) does not include appropriations in any other warrant article.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee.

EXPLANATION: The municipal operating budget, which is the subject of this article, funds the general costs of operating the Town. The operating budget also includes the expenditures and revenues for the EMS Special Revenue Fund and the Sewer Enterprise Fund. The municipal operating budget is summarized by department and fund below:

GENERAL FUND:	
Administration	1,831,115
Public Works	4,264,661
Public Safety:	
Police	3,457,149
Fire	1,953,488
Library	558,661
Parks & Recreation	337,841
Debt Service	342,752
CIP	1,336,139
GENERAL FUND	\$14,081,806
SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND*	\$1,923,423
EMS SPECIAL REVENUE FUND*	\$310,991
Total Operating Budget	\$16,316,220

*same amount in offsetting revenues

ARTICLE 10

Shall the Town approve the cost items in the collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Goffstown by its Board of Selectmen and the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, Local No. 371 representing the employees in the bargaining unit from the Police Department running through December 31, 2010 and to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Forty Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Seven Dollars (\$40,277) such sum representing the additional costs attributable at current staffing levels paid in 2005? The estimated additional costs for 2007 over the costs in 2006 will be Fifty Two Thousand Sixty Eight Dollars (\$52,068). The estimated additional costs for 2008 over the costs in 2007 will be Thirty One Thousand Two Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$31,218). The estimated additional costs in 2009 over the costs in 2008 will be Twenty Seven Thousand Dollars Seven Hundred Eighty Seven Dollars (\$27,787). The estimated additional costs in 2010 over the costs in 2009 will be Thirty Three Thousand Four Hundred Ten Dollars (\$33,410). The cost items for future years will be included in the operating budget. (This appropriation is in addition to Article 9.)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee.

EXPLANATION: This is a five year collective bargaining agreement with the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, Local 371. Cost items include a restructuring of the cafeteria insurance plan which results in a savings to the town, incentives for special assignments, change in overtime calculation for two holidays a year, three hour minimum for court overtime, degree incentive and an annual adjustment as follows: 4%-4%-3%-3%-4%.

ARTICLE 11

Shall the Town approve the cost items in the collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Goffstown by its Board of Selectmen and the Teamsters Local 633 of New Hampshire representing the employees in the bargaining unit from the Department of Public Works running through December 31, 2010 and to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Thirty Five Thousand Five Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$35,518) such sum representing the additional costs attributable at current staffing levels paid in 2005? The estimated additional costs for 2007 over the costs in 2006 will be Twenty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Four Dollars (\$25,904). The estimated additional costs for 2008 over the costs in 2007 will be Thirty Six Thousand Twenty Two Dollars (\$36,022). The estimated additional costs in 2009 over the costs in 2008 will be Thirty Two Thousand Forty Seven Dollars (\$32,047). The estimated additional costs in 2010 over the costs in 2009 will be Forty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Nine Dollars (\$49,659). The cost items for future years will be included in the operating budget. (This appropriation is in addition to Article 9.)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee.

EXPLANATION: This is a five year collective bargaining agreement with the Teamsters Union which represents some employees at the Department of Public Works. Cost items include a restructuring of the town's cafeteria insurance plan which results in a savings to the town, a one time bonus in 2006, annual safety bonus for safe practices resulting in no workers compensation or property liability claims, and an annual adjustment as follows: 4%-4%-3%-3%-4%.

ARTICLE 12

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Eight Hundred Twenty One Thousand dollars (\$1,821,000) for the purpose of implementing the current phase of the Road Improvement Plan? The road improvement plan has been part of the CIP process since 2002 and annual appropriations for the plan have been approved as Special Articles since 2002. This article is designated as a Special Article pursuant to RSA 32:3, VI (d). (This appropriation is in addition to Article 9.)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee.

EXPLANATION: This is the 5th year of a multi-year Road Improvement Program. This article is \$44,000 less than last year's request. The basic premise of the road program is that it is more cost efficient to maintain roads than to rebuild roads. Therefore, the program's goal is to rebuild roads which are below the acceptable level and then maintain the acceptance level to reduce costly rebuilding of roads. As the years go by, the Town should spend less on reclamation and more on maintenance, thereby having a positive effect on roads and the road budget.



ARTICLE 13

Shall the Town, pursuant to RSA 162-K:1, adopt the provisions of RSA 162-K relative to Municipal Economic Development and Revitalization Districts so that the town will thereafter have all the authority, powers, duties and responsibilities set forth in that chapter?

Submitted by Board of Selectmen.

EXPLANATION OF ARTICLES 13, 14 & 15: Goffstown's tax base is 9.1% commercial/industrial, 1.9% utilities, and 89% residential. Traditional efforts to increase the commercial/industrial tax base have resulted in limited success. Therefore, through the Planning and Economic Development process a plan to utilize RSA 162-K was brought to the selectmen for consideration and a public hearing was held. This plan identifies a TIF district and uses the increase in taxes resulting from improvements in that district to fund the infrastructure improvements as recommended in the Corridor Management Plan.

ARTICLE 14

Assuming the adoption by the Town of Article 13, shall the town, pursuant to RSA 162-K:3 & 5, resolve that the adoption and implementation of the Mast Road Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Development District Plan will serve a public purpose as the same is contemplated in RSA 162-K:5 and to adopt the Mast Road Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Development District Plan?

Submitted by Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 15

Assuming the adoption by the Town of Article 14, shall the town, pursuant to RSA 162-K:5, create and establish the Tax Increment Financing District described in the Mast Road Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Development District Plan and, in addition to establishing the district, establish the development program and tax increment financing plan more particularly set forth in said plan?

Submitted by Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 16

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be deposited into the Grasmere Town Hall Capital Reserve Fund and furthermore to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from the Grasmere Town Hall Capital Reserve Fund as provided by RSA 35:15? (This appropriation is in addition to Article 9.)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee.

EXPLANATION: Last year the voters supported the creation of a Capital Reserve Fund and appropriated the first year of a three year funding plan to save money for the Grasmere Town Hall restoration which will provide handicap accessibility to the second floor theater/auditorium. When completed this will be the only municipal meeting room which will hold a capacity of approximately 200 people. This year we seek to continue this Capital Reserve Fund with the second year appropriation of \$100,000. This money will be used to leverage grant money which may become available during the year. In order to be able to leverage grants, we need to be able to access the money in the fund without the expense of a special town meeting, therefore we seek voter approval to name the selectmen as agents to expend from this fund for the stated purpose.

ARTICLE 17

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the purpose of purchasing an excavator? (This appropriation is in addition to Article 9.)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee.

EXPLANATION: In previous years the road improvement plan article included funds to rent an excavator for the road improvements. This year the selectmen moved \$100,000 from the original road improvement program request to this article to fund the purchase of an excavator.

ARTICLE 18

Shall the Town raise and appropriate Fifteen Thousand dollars (\$15,000) for the purpose of funding the nonprofit Goffstown Main Street Program, Inc.? (This appropriation is in addition to Article 9.)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee.

EXPLANATION: The town has financially supported Goffstown Main Street Program annually at this level for the past seven years. Main Street's mission is to provide support, advice, and promotion to current and potential business owners and residents of the designated Main Street area using the National Main Street Center's 4-Point Approach. The 4-Point Approach revolves around principles of effective design, promotion, economic restructuring, and organization as the keys to economic revitalization of historic downtown.

ARTICLE 19

Shall the Town raise and appropriate Ninety Four Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Seven dollars (\$94,427) from the EMS Special Revenue Fund to reimburse the Town's General Fund for the purchase of the new ambulance in 2005? (This appropriation is in addition to Article 9 and results in revenue to the General Fund so that property taxes will not be raised to pay for the ambulance.)

Recommended by Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee.

EXPLANATION: Last year the town was granted the authority for an emergency appropriation to purchase a new ambulance because of an accident which totaled one of the town's ambulances. The amount not covered by insurance was paid from the General Fund. This article seeks to reimburse the town's General Fund from the EMS Special Revenue Fund which is funded by ambulance fees. This appropriation from the EMS Special Revenue Fund means that ambulance fees will fund the ambulance replacement.

ARTICLE 20

Shall the Town authorize the Library Board of Trustees indefinitely, until rescinded, to accept on behalf of the Library gifts of personal property, other than money, which may be offered to the Library for any public purpose, pursuant to RSA 202-A:4-d. This vote shall remain in effect until rescinded by a vote of the Town Meeting. The Library Board of Trustees must hold a public hearing before accepting any such gift valued at over \$5,000, and the acceptance shall not bind the library to raise, appropriate or expend any public funds for the operation, repair, or replacement of such personal property?

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen.

EXPLANATION: The Library Trustees have presented this article as a housekeeping article so that they will have the authority to accept gifts of personal property provided they follow the statutory requirements.

ARTICLE 21

Shall the Town sell, transfer easement rights, license land rights or otherwise grant property rights in Town owned property at Map 34 Lot 177 (East Union Street Pumping Station), to a private developer for use in conjunction with the proposed development project on Map 34 Lot 171?

EXPLANATION: Article #21 was amended at the Deliberative Session to be the same as Article #23. The amendment removed language to accept easements over the developer's lot (Map 34 Lot 171) which provided for joint driveway access, pedestrian river walk access, public utilities, snowplow turnaround and other provisions. It also removed language to collect \$10,000 from the developer for the exchange of easements. This article only conveys part of what was requested for the development of this parcel.

ARTICLE 22

Shall the Town authorize the selectmen, in their judgment, to grant a permanent, non-exclusive access easement across the rail to trail corridor owned by the Town of Goffstown, State of New Hampshire, to a private developer for use in conjunction with the proposed development project on property located at Tax Map 34, Lot 171 on Factory Street and East Union Street. The final form of the easements referenced in this Warrant Article 22 shall be in a form satisfactory to the town attorney? The selectmen are authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to carry this article into effect.

Submitted by the Board of Selectmen.

EXPLANATION: Article #22 seeks to authorize an access easement across the rail to trail corridor to a private developer to develop Map 34 Lot 171.

ARTICLE 23

Shall the Town sell, transfer easement rights, license land rights or otherwise grant property rights in Town owned property at Map 34 Lot 177 (East Union Street Pumping Station), to a private developer for use in conjunction with the proposed development project on Map 34 Lot 171?

Submitted by petition.

EXPLANATION: See Article #21.

ARTICLE 24

Shall the Town direct the Board of Selectmen to stop any and all efforts to consolidate Police, Fire, EMS, and Code Enforcement services into a Public Safety Department administered by a Public Safety Director?

Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

EXPLANATION: This article was amended at the Deliberative Session. Prior to the amendment it sought endorsement of the selectmen's decision to consolidate police, fire, EMS and code enforcement functions into a Public Safety Department. This article is advisory.

ARTICLE 25

Shall the Town continue the Police and Fire Departments as the separate entities they have been for many years, and restore to office any personnel who may have been removed from said office, if reorganization has begun before this vote?

Submitted by petition.

EXPLANATION: The legislative body (voters) does not have the authority to reinstate personnel. Such authority rests with the governing body (Board of Selectmen). This article is advisory.

ARTICLE 26

Shall the Town reaffirm the continuation of separate Fire and Police Departments, with each department run by a fire chief and police chief, with each being the distinct department head for their respective departments?

Submitted by petition.

EXPLANATION: This article is advisory.

ARTICLE 27

Shall the Town direct and require the Board of Selectmen to reinstate Frank Carpentino to the position of Fire Chief and department head of the Fire Department?

Submitted by petition.

EXPLANATION: The legislative body (voters) does not have the authority to reinstate personnel. Such authority rests with the governing body (Board of Selectmen). This article is advisory.

ARTICLE 28

Shall the Town make the position of Public Safety Director an elected position with a 2-year term, should the Town legislative body approve the consolidation of its public safety services? The election of the Public Safety Director shall not be held until the next succeeding annual meeting following the approval of this article.

Submitted by petition.

EXPLANATION: There is no statute which authorizes this position as an elected position. This article is advisory.

ARTICLE 29

Shall the Town adopt the provisions of paragraph I and II of NH RSA 154:5, which includes allowing a fire chief's tenure to be based on good conduct and efficiency and provides for the suspension and/or dismissal of a fire chief only for cause, after he or she, has been presented with a written specification of the reasons?

Submitted by petition.

EXPLANATION: This article provides for removal of a Fire Chief for cause.

ARTICLE 30

Shall the Town raise and appropriate an additional sum of \$221,258 (above the 2006 operating budget) of the \$402,893 necessary to employ 18 additional full time Firefighter/EMTs within the Goffstown Fire Department, in order to implement 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, fire and fire based Emergency Medical Services, staffing a minimum of two fire stations. The effective date of hiring nine new full time Firefighter/EMTs shall commence effective July 1, 2006; and the effective date of which the remaining nine full time Firefighter/EMTs shall commence with a hiring date of September 1, 2006?

Submitted by petition.
Not Recommended by Board of Selectmen.
Not Recommended by Budget Committee.

EXPLANATION: Petitioners explained that the total cost of hiring 18 new firefighters and hiring at the staggered intervals would cost the town \$402,893. They stated this could be funded by raising \$221,258 and transferring \$181,635 from other lines in the proposed 2006 Fire Department Budget including the Call Firefighter wage lines, Call EMT wage lines and Overtime lines. Petitioners anticipate an increase in the 2006 property tax rate of 18 cents per thousand assessed valuation. Petitioners stated that the estimated 2007 appropriation would be \$879,692, with an offset of \$389,250 from 2007 budget lines. The town believes the costs will be higher than projected by the petitioners due to increases in wages and benefits. NH Retirement System estimates increases in Firefighters retirement plan to an employer contribution of 24.49% on 7/1/07. Also, the Fire union is in negotiations which should result in wage increases not calculated in their estimate. There will be additional facility costs for sleeping and eating quarters. In 2007 it is estimated the cost will be about \$1,000,000 which would result in a substantial increase in your 2007 property tax rate. **Selectmen and Budget Committee do not recommend this article.**

ARTICLE 31

Shall the Town require that, in order to be elected or to serve as a selectmen, one must physically reside within the Town of Goffstown?

Submitted by petition.

EXPLANATION: There are state laws which address residency of elected officials. The town has no authority to modify or expand on statutory requirements. This article is advisory.

ARTICLE 32

Shall the Town adopt provisions of RSA 40:14 to delegate the determination of the Goffstown Town Default Budget to the municipal budget committee?

Submitted by petition.

EXPLANATION: This article does not follow the required statutory language. This article is advisory.

ARTICLE 33

Shall the Town of Goffstown adopt the provisions of RSA 40-14b to delegate the determination of the default budget to the Municipal Budget Committee which has been adopted under RSA 32:14? (Requires 3/5 majority vote.)

Submitted by petition.

EXPLANATION: There is enabling legislation to allow the Budget Committee to establish the default budget. This petition would change the responsibility for establishing the default budget from the governing body to the Budget Committee. Since the governing body is charged with administering the budget, then it is appropriate for the governing body to establish the default budget. **Selectmen do not recommend this article.**

ARTICLE 34

Shall the Town, in accordance with RSA 32:15, reduce the number of members of the Budget Committee from sixteen (16) to thirteen (13) members, of which nine (9) members are to be elected at large, three each year for 3-year overlapping terms? Four representatives shall be selected for one-year terms, one each from the selectmen, the school board, the Goffstown Water Precinct, and the Grasmere Water Precinct.

Submitted by petition.

EXPLANATION: This article would reduce the number of members of the Budget Committee, thereby reducing participation in the budget process. **Selectmen do not recommend this article.**

ARTICLE 35

Shall the Town adopt and approve the Charter recommended and submitted on December 15, 2004 by the 2004 Charter Commission?
The following chart summarizes the current form of government and the major changes in the proposed Charter:

	CURRENT	PROPOSED CHANGES
GOVERNING BODY	5 Selectmen	7 Councilors
ADMINISTRATION	Selectmen/Town Administrator	Town Manager
CEMETERY TRUSTEES	Elected	Appointed
BUDGET COMMITTEE	12 Elected Members	9 Elected Members
BOND PASSAGE	3/5 (60%) majority vote	2/3 (66 2/3%) majority vote
DEFAULT BUDGET	Set by Board of Selectmen	Set by Budget Committee
PETITIONS	All Petitions (Appropriations, Zoning, other): 25 registered voters	Petitions: Appropriations, Zoning, and Initiative Petitions: 50 registered voters Referendum Petitions: 500 registered voters Recall of Officeholder Petitions: 250 registered voters

Submitted by petition.

EXPLANATION: This petitioned article resubmits the charter which was defeated at last year's town meeting. There is no law allowing for the resubmission of a failed charter without following the procedure as outlined in the state law.

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