

**OFFICIAL BALLOT
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
ASHLAND, NEW HAMPSHIRE
MARCH 14, 2017**

ARTICLE 1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Board of Selectmen – three year term - vote for two	Tejasinha Sivalingam
Town Treasurer – three year term - vote for one	Linda Guyotte
Town Moderator – two year term – vote for one	
Town Trustee of the Trust Funds – three year term – vote for one	Richard Pare
Library Trustee – three year term – vote for one	David Ruell
Electric Commissioner – three year term – vote for one	Jamie Lyford
Water and Sewer Commissioner – three year term – vote for one	Tejasinha Sivalingam
Budget Committee – three year term – vote for three	Jeanette Stewart
Budget Committee – two year term – vote for one	
Cemetery Trustee – three year term – vote for one	Sherrie Downing
Cemetery Trustee – two year term – vote for one	Kyle Baert

ARTICLE 2 No Tax Impact in 2017; Estimated Tax impact for 2018 is \$0.34

Passage of this article shall override the 10 percent limitation imposed on this appropriation due to the non-recommendation of the budget committee.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Nine Hundred Seventy-One Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$1,971,900) for the purpose of a road and utility reconstruction project on Thompson Street and Smith Hill Road, with Three Hundred Ten Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Three Dollars (\$310,173) to come from the Road Improvements Capital Reserve Fund; and to authorize the issuance of One Million Six Hundred Sixty-One Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Seven Dollars (\$1,661,727) to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes under and in compliance accordance with the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended; further to authorize the municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project.

3/5 ballot vote required

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Not recommended by the Budget Committee vote 4-4

ARTICLE 3 PETITIONED. Library Building No Tax Impact in 2017; Estimated Tax impact for 2018 is \$0.18

Passage of this article shall override the 10 percent limitation imposed on this appropriation due to the non-recommendation of the budget committee

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred twenty five thousand dollars (\$625,000) for the purchase, renovation and furnishing of the former elementary school property (41 School Street) from Tri-County Community Action Program for the use of the Ashland Town Library, of which five hundred twenty five thousand dollars (\$525,000) is for the purchase of the land and building and one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) is for the renovation and furnishing of the building, and to authorize the issuance of not more than six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) of bonds and notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 33) for that purpose; and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest there on; and to authorize the receipt and expenditure of any Federal, state or private funds that may become available for that purpose, and to authorize the withdrawal of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) from the Ashland Library Building Capital Reserve fund for that purpose.

3/5 ballot vote required for SB2

Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 3-1
Not recommended by the Budget Committee vote 5-2

ARTICLE 4. Estimated Tax impact \$0.23

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a five year lease purchase agreement in the amount of \$533,403.31 for a fire engine, contingent upon such an agreement having a non-appropriation clause in accordance with the provisions of RSA 33-7-e; and to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-three thousand seven hundred eighty nine dollars and eighty five cents [\$53,789.85] as a down payment for that purpose?

Majority vote required

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 4-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 7-0

ARTICLE 5. Estimated Tax Impact is \$0.00

NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) Transportation Alternative Program

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$400,000 for Reconstruction of Sidewalks to bring them into compliance with ADA standards, and to construct new sidewalks on Main Street (US Rt. 3/25); and to partially fund this appropriation with a \$320,000 NHDOT Transportation Alternatives grant already awarded to the Town, with the balance of \$80,000 to come from the Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 5-3

ARTICLE 6. Estimated Tax Impact is \$7.35

Shall the Town of Ashland raise and appropriate as the Town General Government operating budget not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount 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 \$2,606,104. Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$2,600,288 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Ashland 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.

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 4-3 with 1 Abstain

ARTICLE 7.

Shall the Town of Ashland raise and appropriate as the Ashland Electric Department operating budget not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount 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 \$3,181,053. Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$3,181,053 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Ashland 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.

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 6-0 with 2 Abstain

ARTICLE 8.

Shall the Town of Ashland raise and appropriate as the Ashland Water Department operating budget not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount 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 \$202,906. Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$240,901 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Ashland 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.

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 8-0

ARTICLE 9.

Shall the Town of Ashland raise and appropriate as the Ashland Sewer Department operating budget not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amount 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 \$322,018. Should this article be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$392,392 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Ashland 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.

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 8-0

ARTICLE 10. Estimated Tax Impact \$.05

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Eight dollars (\$12,938) for the third-year payment of the four-year lease purchase of the Transfer Station mini loader as authorized by vote on March 10, 2015.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 8-0

ARTICLE 11. Estimated Tax Impact \$0.12

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Eight Thousand One Hundred Eighty-Nine Dollars (\$28,189) for the final payment of the five-year lease/purchase for the Public Works Department Loader as authorized by vote on March 12, 2013.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 8-0

ARTICLE 12. Estimated Tax impact is \$0.53

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) to be placed into the Road Improvements Capital Reserve Fund established in 2012 for the purpose of repairing roads.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 6-2

ARTICLE 13. Estimated Tax impact is \$0.21

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to be added into the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund established in 2013 for the purpose of repairing or purchasing fire department vehicles.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 8-0

ARTICLE 14. Estimated Tax impact is \$0.15

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) to be added into the Department of Public Works Capital Reserve Fund established in 2016 for the purpose of vehicle or equipment purchase, replacement or repairs.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 5-3

ARTICLE 15. Estimated Tax impact is \$0.13

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to be placed into the Police Department Capital Reserve Fund established in 2013 for the purpose of repairing or purchasing Police Department vehicles.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 7-1

ARTICLE 16. Estimated Tax impact is \$0.11

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be added into the Building Maintenance and Repair Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of maintaining and repairing all Town Buildings.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Not to recommend by the Budget Committee vote 4-4

ARTICLE 17. Estimated Tax Impact is \$0.11

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be placed into the Ashland Library Building Capital Reserve Fund established in 2015. This article will be null and void if warrant article 3 passes.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 3-2

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 7-1

ARTICLE 18. Estimated Tax Impact \$0.00

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) to be added to the Emergency Management Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of covering expenses as needed during the activation of the towns' Emergency Operation Plan.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 8-0

ARTICLE 19. Estimated Tax Impact \$0.08

SEIU Local 1984 (Collective Bargaining Agreement)

To see if the Town of Ashland will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Ashland Board of Selectmen and the SEIU Local 1984 union which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase	*Based on 9 months, year starts in April
2017	\$19,481	
Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase	
2018	\$34,881	
Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase	
2019	\$10,019	

And, further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,481 for the 2017 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 5-3

ARTICLE 20. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Shall the Town of Ashland, if **Article 19** is defeated, authorize the governing body to call a special meeting, at its option, to address **Article 19** cost items only?

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

ARTICLE 21. LCHIP Grant Estimated Tax Impact is \$0.03

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$36,500 for a Town Hall Planning Study, to evaluate its physical condition and its future use, engineering and architectural costs associated with preparing draft plans and to fund one half of this appropriation by a grant from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) in the amount of \$18,250, which has already been awarded to the Town for this purpose, with the required matching amount balance (\$18,250) to have Ten Thousand (\$10,000) come from the Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund and Eight Thousand Two Hundred Fifty dollars (\$8,250) come from other grants and donations, if available, or from general taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 4-0
Not recommended by the Budget Committee vote 5-2

ARTICLE 22. Automobile Registration Fee

To see if the Town will adopt the provisions of RSA 261:153, VI to authorize the collection of an additional fee for motor vehicle registrations in the amount of \$5.00, to be deposited in a Capital Reserve Fund established by this vote to be known as the Ashland Municipal Transportation Fund, to be used for the purpose of municipal transportation improvements, to fund, wholly or in part, improvements in the local or regional transportation system, including roads, bridges, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, parking and intermodal facilities and public transportation; and further to designate the Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. Registrations for motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles (as defined in RSA 215-A: 1, I-b) and antique motor vehicles (as defined in RSA 259:4) are exempt from this fee. This fee shall be collected starting with motor vehicle registration permits on or after May 1, 2017.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

ARTICLE 23. Budget Committee

To see if the town will vote to rescind the adoption of the Municipal Budget Act, RSA Chapter 32, disband the elected Ashland Budget Committee, and instead establish a Budget Advisory Committee consisting of 5 members who will review and report to the citizens of Ashland on the budget process. These members will be appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

ARTICLE 24. Veteran Property Tax Credit

Shall the town adopt the "all veterans' property tax credit" under RSA 72:28-b? If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident, who (1) served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or was an officer honorably separated from service, and (2) is not eligible for and not receiving the credit for veterans who served in a qualifying war or armed conflict or for veterans with a service-connected disability. If adopted, the credit will be in the amount of \$250, which is the same amount as the credit for a veteran who served in a qualifying war or armed conflict. If the credit is adopted, any person desiring to claim the credit will be required to file an application with the selectmen or the assessors by April 15 of the tax year.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

ARTICLE 25. Electric Commissioners

To see if the Town will vote to require the Board of Commissioners of the Municipal Electric Department to comply with the following conditions:

- 1. No additions, subtractions or changes shall be made to Town of Ashland buildings or lands without the written approval of the Board of Selectmen.
- 2. Provide written and/or independent audited confirmation of compliance to all Town of Ashland regulations, ordinances, policies and contracts.
- 3. Provide quarterly written reports to the Board of Selectmen on the assets, liabilities, income and expenses (month by month and year to date) for the department, in a format consistent with Town of Ashland reporting.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

ARTICLE 26. Water and Sewer Commissioners

To see if the Town will vote to require the Board of Commissioners of the Municipal Water and Sewer Departments to comply with the following conditions:

- 4. No additions, subtractions or changes shall be made to Town of Ashland buildings or lands without the written approval of the Board of Selectmen.
- 5. Provide written and/or independent audited confirmation of compliance to all Town of Ashland regulations, ordinances, policies and contracts.
- 6. Provide quarterly written reports to the Board of Selectmen on the assets, liabilities, income and expenses (month by month and year to date) for the department, in a format consistent with Town of Ashland reporting.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

ARTICLE 27 PETITIONED. Grafton County Senior Citizens Council Estimated Tax Impact is \$0.03

Shall the voters raise and appropriate Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000) to Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. for services for Ashland residents in 2017. These services include congregate meals, home delivered meals, transportation, outreach support, Service Link support, and more. In FY 2016, Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc. provided services for 121 Ashland residents, and Service Link provided services for 39 residents. The cost of providing these services was \$71, 972.68.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 8-0

ARTICLE 28 PETITIONED. Pemi-Baker Community Health Estimated Tax Impact is \$0.04

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Six Dollars (\$9,686) for Pemi-Baker Community Health (a non-profit organization) for the purpose of providing uninsured and underinsured residents of the Town with quality health care. The sum amounts to Four Dollars and Sixty-Five Cents (\$4.65) per resident based upon recent census data, and it represents a small fraction of the cost of providing these services to our residents in their home. [Home care provided by Pemi-Baker Community Health to uninsured and underinsured patients helps the Town limit welfare payments for medical services.]

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 7-1

ARTICLE 29 PETITIONED. TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM Estimated Tax Impact is \$0.01

To see if the Town of Ashland will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand One Hundred and Seven Dollars (\$3,107) for Tri-County Community Action Grafton County for the purpose of continuing services of the Fuel Assistance Program for the residents of Ashland.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 7-1

ARTICLE 30 PETITIONED. VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE Estimated Tax Impact is \$0.01

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$2,400) for the fiscal year 2016-2017 to support Voices Against Violence, a non-profit Crisis Center and shelter providing emergency shelter, court and hospital accompaniment and general support to women, men and children who are victims of domestic and sexual violence and stalking.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 7-1

ARTICLE 31 PETITIONED. GENESIS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH Estimated Tax Impact is \$0.01

To see if the Town of Ashland will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500) to support emergency services provided by Genesis Behavioral Health to the residents of Ashland

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 6-2

ARTICLE 32 PETITIONED. BRIDGE HOUSE SHELTER & VETERANS ADVOCACY Estimated Tax Impact is \$0.01

To see if the Town of Ashland will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) to support the services of The Bridge Houses Shelter & Veterans Advocacy

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 8-0

ARTICLE 33 PETITIONED. COMMUNITIES FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUG FREE YOUTH (CADY) Estimated Tax Impact is \$0.00

To see if the Town of Ashland will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) to support Communities for Alcohol and Drug Free Youth (CADY) a non-profit organization serving Ashland and nearby towns.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Not recommended by the Budget Committee vote 4-4

ARTICLE 34 PETITIONED. PEMIGEWASSET RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PRLAC) Estimated Tax Impact is \$0.00

To see if the Town of Ashland will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300) for the towns share of the operations of the Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee (PRLAC). These funds are used for testing the river throughout the spring, summer and into fall. Also, inspecting sites being developed within one quarter mile of the river as requested by the NH Department of Environmental Services. This involves testimony regarding Northern Pass project.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0
Not recommended by the Budget Committee vote 4-4

ARTICLE 35 PETITIONED. IMPLEMENT TAX CAP

Shall the Town of Ashland adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b, and implement a tax cap, whereby the governing body shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes by more than 2%?

Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

3/5 majority vote required for passage

ARTICLE 36 PETITIONED. DAY AWAY PROGRAM Estimated Tax Impact is \$0.00

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500) for the Day Away Program, a non-profit center for those people having Dementia or a related form of Dementia, whose purpose is to provide the caregiver a time of respite and help the participant to maintain their independence and encourage socialization.

Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 7-0 and 1 Abstain

ARTICLE 37 PETITIONED. TOWN CLERK – TAX COLLECTOR Estimated Tax Impact is \$0.01

To see if the Town shall vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) to be added to and divided evenly between the Town Clerk and Tax Collector longevity lines for the ensuing year.

Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-1

Not recommended by the Budget Committee vote 7-0

ARTICLE 38 PETITIONED. TOWN TREASURER Estimated Tax Impact is \$0.01

To see if the Town shall vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) for Treasurer to be added to and divided between the Town and utility departments for the ensuing year.

Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0

Not recommended by the Budget Committee vote 6-1

ARTICLE 39 PETITIONED. TOWN MANAGER

Do you favor adoption of the town manager plan as provided in Chapter 37 of the Revised Statutes Annotated?

Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-1

ARTICLE 40 PETITIONED. ASHLAND 150TH CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to help defray costs of fireworks and other events to be held in 2018 in connection with the sesquicentennial of the Town being planned by the Ashland 150th Celebration Committee, which Committee has been established by the Board of Selectmen.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee vote 5-2 and 1 Abstain

ARTICLE 41 PETITIONED. OPPOSITION TO ‘NORTHERN PASS’

We the people of the Town of Ashland hereby affirm our continued support of the Ashland Water and Sewer Department, Ashland Conservation Commission and the Board of Selectmen who are acting on the Town’s behalf for the protection of Ashland’s natural resources and assets as intervenors in the State Site Evaluation Committee’s (SEC) proceedings under “Docket No. 2015-06” (Joint Application of Northern Pass Transmission LLC and Public Service Company of New Hampshire D/B/A Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Site and Facility to Construct a New Voltage Transmission Line and Related Facilities in New Hampshire)” relating to the proposed Northern Pass Transmission line.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0

ARTICLE 42. Are you in favor of amending Article 1 of the Ashland Building Regulations?

ARTICLE 43. Are you in favor of amending Article 2.2 of the Ashland Building Regulations to add “site plan”?

ARTICLE 44. Are you in favor of amending Article 3.1 of the Ashland Building Regulations to add “market value if new”?

ARTICLE 45. Are you in favor of amending Article 7.3 of the Ashland Building Regulations to allow Board of Selectmen authority to waive a statutory requirement that with a new extension of sewer line, residents within 100 feet of it would not necessarily have to hook up service until an adequate existing septic system has failed?

ARTICLE 46. Are you in favor of amending Article 10 of the Ashland Building Regulations?

ARTICLE 47. Are you in favor of amending Article 15 of the Ashland Building Regulations to again delegate authority to set fees to the Planning Board?