

TRUE COPY ATTEST

Alexandra Kelly

TOWN CLERK

TOWN WARRANT 2024

TO: Robert Trabona, citizen of the Town of Georgetown, Maine, GREETINGS:

You are hereby required in the name of the State of Maine to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Georgetown, Maine, qualified to vote in Town affairs, according to the Constitution and laws of this State, to assemble at Georgetown Central School, Georgetown Center, on **Tuesday, the eleventh day of June, 2024 at 8 o'clock in the forenoon through 8 o'clock in the afternoon and again on Saturday, the fifteenth day of June, 2024 beginning at nine o'clock in the forenoon**, to act on the following articles:

- Art. 1. To elect by ballot a Moderator to preside at said meeting.
- Art. 2. To elect by ballot a Town Clerk for a term ending at the closing of the Town books, June 30, 2025.
- Art. 3. To elect by ballot a Selectman for a term ending at the 2027 Annual Town Meeting.
- Art. 4. To elect by ballot a Tax Collector for a term ending at the closing of the Town books, June 30, 2025.
- Art. 5. To elect by ballot a member of the School Committee for a term ending at the 2027 Annual Town Meeting.
- Art. 6. To elect by ballot a member of the Town-Owned Property Management Board for a term ending at the 2027 Annual Town Meeting.
- Art. 7. To elect by ballot a Cemetery District Trustee for a term ending at the 2027 Annual Town Meeting.

Articles 1 through 7 will be voted by secret ballot on Tuesday, June 11, between 8am and 8pm, with the remaining articles addressed on Saturday, June 15, beginning at nine o'clock in the forenoon.

Art. 8. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following: (A) in regard to collection of taxes: Taxes shall become due and payable sixty days from the date printed on the bill, and interest at the rate of eight (8) percent per annum will be charged on all accounts not paid by the due date; and (B) in regard to abatement of taxes: Interest at the rate of four (4) percent per annum will be applied to all accounts from the date the taxes were paid until the overpayment is repaid.

Art. 9. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the consent of the Board of Selectmen, to procure a temporary loan or loans in anticipation of taxes for the purpose of paying obligations of the Town, such loan or loans to be paid during the municipal year out of money raised by taxes during that municipal year.

Art. 10. 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 in accordance with state law and on such terms as they deem advisable and to execute quitclaim deeds on the same.

Art. 11. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to dispose of Town owned personal property valued at \$2,000 or less under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

Art. 12. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of the Selectmen to accept and expend such additional funds as various Town bodies may receive from government or private grants or similar block-

funding gifts and donations, provided that funding does not trigger the expenditure of additional local funds not previously appropriated by the voters.

Art. 13. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the municipal Treasurer, upon direction from the Board of Selectmen, to waive the foreclosure of a Tax Lien Mortgage by recording a Waiver of Foreclosure in the Registry of Deeds in which the Tax Lien Certificate is recorded, prior to the right of redemption expiring, pursuant to 36 MRSA § 944.

Art. 14. To see if the Town will vote to use anticipated revenues, regardless of source, except as prohibited by law, to reduce the mil rate.

Art. 15. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate from Undesignated Fund Balance an amount not to exceed \$10,000 to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that may occur during the next fiscal year.

Art. 16. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of any unexpended funds, budgeted for the purpose of Employee Health Benefits, at the end of FY 2024-25 to the Health Benefits Reserve Fund. (The Health Benefits Reserve fund balance is estimated to be \$13,545 as of June 30, 2024).

PROPOSED NEW ORDINANCE

Art. 17. Shall the proposed Conservation Commission Ordinance be enacted?. (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

ORDINANCE CHANGES

Art. 18. Shall the proposed 2024 amendments to the Building/Demolition Permit Ordinance be enacted? (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

Art. 19. Shall the proposed 2024 amendments to the Floodplain Management Ordinance be enacted? (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

Art. 20. Shall the proposed 2024 amendments to the Shellfish Conservation Ordinance be enacted? (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

Art. 21. Shall the proposed 2024 amendments to the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance be enacted? (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

Art. 22. Shall the proposed 2024 amendments to the Small Wind Powered Energy Systems Ordinance be enacted? (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

Art. 23. Shall the proposed 2024 amendments to the Solar Energy Ordinance be enacted? (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

Art. 24. Shall the proposed 2024 amendments to the Subdivision Ordinance be enacted? (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

Art. 25. Shall the proposed 2024 amendments to the Ordinance Governing the Town Owned Property Management Board be enacted? (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

Art. 26. Shall the proposed 2024 amendments to the Waterways and Harbors Ordinance be enacted? (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

Art. 27 Shall the proposed 2024 amendments to the Wireless Communications Facilities Ordinance be

enacted? (Copies of the ordinance are available at the Town Office and on the website.)

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

Art. 28. To see if the Town will vote take the following actions concerning Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (aka American Rescue Plan or ARPA funds) received by the Town from the federal government:

- a. To dedicate \$24,284.46 under the ARPA eligible use category of "governmental services replacing lost revenue" towards Wharf Repairs
- b. To dedicate \$27,000 under the ARPA eligible use category of "governmental services replacing lost revenue" towards the replacement and repair of the Charles Pond Culvert
- c. To dedicate \$3,000 under the ARPA eligible use category of "governmental services replacing lost revenue" towards retrofitting the Town Office Conference Room to be more conducive for the running of Hybrid Meetings
- d. To establish a non-lapsing ARPA Reserve Fund, to place funds appropriated under paragraph (a) into the Fund until needed, and to authorize the Select Board to spend said funds for the authorized purpose without additional town meeting approval; and
- e. To authorize the Select Board to execute any documents or agreements necessary to accomplish said purposes.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Art. 29. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate funds to pay the following Town Officers' salaries for the period from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, hereafter designated as the fiscal year 2024-25, and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2023-24	2024-25
Selectman, Chair	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Selectman (2)	8,000	8,000
Town Administrator (formerly Asst. to the Selectmen)	49,091	60,000
Finance Director	57,986	70,000
Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector	2,748	3,000
Registrar of Voters	300	300
Tax Collector	29,352	35,000
Town Clerk	9,246	15,000
Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk fees	6,000	0
Town-Owned Property Management Board	1,500	1,500
Treasurer	0	0
Emergency Management Director	250	2,750
Vacation and sick pay annual	4,000	4,000

Vacation and sick pay fund	<u>30,166</u>	<u>27,203</u>
	\$ 203,639	\$ 231,753

Art. 30. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following administrative expenses for the fiscal year 2024-25 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2023-24	2024-25
Board of Appeals	\$ 1,050	\$ 625
Conservation Commission	6,100	7,100
Planning Board	500	500
Street lights / Signs	4,200	3,450
Town Office expense	36,802	40,780
General Government	<u>225,688</u>	<u>236,728</u>

*This includes \$5,500 in reserve fund additions

	\$ 274,340	\$ 289,183*
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TOWN-OWNED PROPERTY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Art. 31. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Town-Owned Property Management Board to solicit, accept and appropriate donations for wharf repairs and improvements.

Art. 32. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following property management expenses for the fiscal year 2024-25 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2023-2024	2024-25
TOPMB Operations	\$ 32,750	\$ 55,800*

*This includes \$22,000 in reserve fund additions

Art. 33. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Town-Owned Property Management Board to assess and collect repair costs from anyone whose vessel damages the Town Wharf at Five Islands.

GEORGETOWN COMMON SCHOOLS

Articles 34 - 43 Education expenditure articles for the fiscal year 2024-25

Art. 34. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the following for Regular Instruction.

	2023-24	2024-25
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$1,508,376	\$1,536,454

Art. 35. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the following for Special Education.

	2023-24	2024-25
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 386,186	\$355,618

Art. 36. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the following for Other Instruction.

	2023-24	2024-25
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 7,945	\$7,922

Art. 37. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the following for Student and Staff Support.

	2023-24	2024-25
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 81,032	\$88,971

Art. 38. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the following for System Administration.

	2023-24	2024-25
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 102,390	\$102,698

Art. 39. To see if the Town will authorize the School Committee to expend the following for School Administration.

	2023-24	2024-25
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 205,151	\$199,054

Art. 40. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the following for Transportation and Buses.

	2023-24	2024-25
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 194,683	\$199,140

Art. 41. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee to expend the following for Facilities and Maintenance.

	2023-24	2024-25
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 255,738	\$242,042

Art. 42. To see if the Town will authorize the School Committee to expend the following for All Other Expenditures.

	2023-24	2024-25
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 35,000	\$20,000

Art. 43. To see if the Town will authorize the School Committee to expend the following for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025 from the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, additional local funds for school purposes under 20-A MRSA § 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, State subsidy, and other receipts for the support of schools.

	2023-24	2024-25
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 2,776,501	\$2,751,899

Articles 44 & 45 Education revenue articles for the fiscal year 2024-25

Art. 44. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see if the Town will vote to raise as the Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with 20-A MRSA § 15688.

	2023-24	2024-25
<i>The School Committee recommends:</i>	\$ 1,378,010	\$1,500,828

Explanation: The Town's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that the Town must raise and assess to receive the full amount of State dollars (\$126,137).

Art. 45. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$1,124,933 in additional local funds, which exceeds the State Essential Programs and Services allocation model by \$1,104,933, as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Committee?

The School Committee recommends: YES

The vote on this article must be by written ballot under State law.

The School Committee recommends these local funds to support the educational programs Georgetown voters have long endorsed. This amount is needed to cover costs of District schools that the state's funding model does not recognize including the following: 1) costs of student-teacher ratios, 2) costs of special education programming, 3) costs of extra-curricular and co-curricular programs, 4) transportation costs and 5) repairs and maintenance to the school building. Last year the additional local amount raised was \$1,120,269.

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Town's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the EPS Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment of non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the Town budget for educational programs.

Article 46 - School Facilities Reserve Fund article for the fiscal year 2024-25

Art. 46. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to the capital reserve fund for renovations to the Georgetown Central School, to be expended on recommendation of the School Committee and approval by a majority vote of the Board of Selectmen (current balance \$60,865) 2023-24 2024-25

The School Committee and Select Board recommends: \$ 7,500 \$7,500

Other School Articles

Art. 47. In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall the school committee be authorized to expend such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

The School Committee recommends: YES

Art. 48. In the event that the Town of Georgetown receives more state education subsidy than the amount included in its 2024-25 budget, shall the School Committee be authorized to use the additional subsidy amount to expend beyond the amounts approved for expenditure in the preceding articles?

The School Committee recommends: YES

Art. 49. Shall the Town vote to authorize the School Committee to expend funds from the Student Expense Reserve account (current balance \$150,000) to cover unanticipated and unappropriated expenses related to student education (examples of authorized expenditures include: tuition, transportation, staff and/or related expenses). Withdrawals from the reserve would require approval by a majority of both the Georgetown School Committee and the Georgetown Select Board. Approval of this article does not increase the funding request by the school department.

The School Committee & Select Board recommends: YES

Art. 50. Shall the Town vote to authorize the School Committee to transfer amounts exceeding 5% of the total appropriation for any cost center to another cost center or among other cost centers for the 2024-25 fiscal year, subject to the approval of the Georgetown Select Board?

Explanation: This article provides the school department flexibility to utilize funds from the entire taxpayer-approved budget before needing to access funds in any reserve account and eliminate the need for special town meetings to increase appropriations in expenditure lines. Approval of this article does not affect the amount of taxes being levied.

The School Committee & Select Board recommends:

YES

PUBLIC SAFETY

Art. 51. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the officers and directors of the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. to solicit and accept donations, grants, and reimbursement claims and to transfer the funds thus raised to the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department.

Art. 52. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to extend and continue the present contract with the Sagadahoc County Fire Association for mutual emergency assistance.

Art. 53. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following protection expenses for the fiscal year 2024-25 and to appropriate the Town and grant funds required:

	2023-24	2024-25
Animal Control	\$ 4,655	\$ 4,489
Code Enforcement Officer/Local Plumbing Inspector	22,097	38,200
Volunteer Fire Department	294,540	236,560*
Harbormaster and moorings	13,750	12,900
Shellfish Conservation Committee	<u>20,841</u>	<u>23,255</u>
	\$ 355,883	\$ 315,404

*This includes \$60,000 in reserve fund additions.

SANITATION

Art. 54. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following solid waste disposal expenses for the fiscal year 2024-25 and to raise and appropriate the Town funds required:

	2023-24	2024-25
Transfer Station Operations	\$ 241,564	\$ 236,294*

*This includes \$4,000 in reserve fund additions.

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES

Art. 55. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following road expenses for the fiscal year 2024-25 and to appropriate the Town funds required:

	2023-24	2024-25
Town Road Maintenance	\$ 165,500	\$174,500
Town Road Paving	565,000	812,980
Transfer to paving reserve (current balance \$446,096)	75,000	75,000
Transfer to Robinhood Rd reserve (current balance \$250,000)	<u>50,000</u>	<u>0</u>
	\$ 855,500	\$1,062,480

Art. 56. To see if the Town will vote to authorize spending \$344,615 for snow removal for the fiscal year 2024-25 and to raise and appropriate the Town funds required. Last year's sum was \$324,950.

RECREATION, HEALTH, AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Art. 57. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following local service expenses for the fiscal year 2024-25 and to raise and appropriate the Town funds required:

	2023-24	2024-25
General assistance	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Georgetown Community Center	8,000	10,000
Recreation Committee	6,725	6,800
Richards Library	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,500</u>
	\$ 20,225	\$ 22,300

Art. 58. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying the following regional service expenses for the fiscal year 2024-25 and to raise and appropriate the Town funds required:

	2023-24	2024-25
Bath Area Senior Activity Center	\$ 800	\$ 800
Bath Area Food Bank	700	700
Big Brothers / Big Sisters	450	0
Midcoast Maine Community Action	525	525
New Hope Midcoast	420	420
Oasis Free Clinic	500	500
Patten Free Library	21,805	22,895
People Plus	500	500
Spectrum Generations	400	400
Sweetser	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,200</u>
	\$ 27,100	\$ 27,940

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

Art. 59. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying for the following cemetery expenses for the fiscal year 2024-25 and to raise and appropriate the Town funds required:

	2023-24	2024-25
Cemetery Maintenance and Repair	\$ 22,150	\$ 76,950

UNCLASSIFIED

Art. 60. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying \$32,036 for MacMahan Island for the fiscal year 2024-25 as authorized by law and to raise and appropriate the Town funds required. This amount is a direct obligation of the Town. Last year's amount was \$28,988.

Art. 61. To see if the Town will vote to authorize paying a sum now estimated at \$1,264,529 to pay tax to Sagadahoc County and to raise and appropriate the Town funds required. This amount is a direct obligation of the Town. Last year's actual amount was \$1,106,199.

Art. 62. To see if the Town will vote to authorize usage of funds from undesignated fund balance, not to exceed \$150,000, to reduce the annual tax commitment.

Art. 63. To see if the Town will vote to bring forward the mandated actual unexpended balance in the following account. The expected unexpended balance as of May 16, 2024 is shown.

	2023-24	2024-25
Common School Funds	\$ 146,044	\$ 0

Art. 64. To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$1,146,765 set for the Town by the State in the event that the municipal budget approved at Town Meeting will result in a tax commitment greater than that property tax levy limit.

Note: The vote on this article must be by written ballot under State law. The Board of Selectmen commend members of the Financial Advisory Committee and all Town boards and committees for their hard work in trimming the budget as far as possible. **They strongly urge a Yes vote on this article.**

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The Registrar of Voters will be at the Georgetown Town Office on Tuesday, the eleventh day of June, at eight o'clock in the morning and again on Saturday, the fifteenth day of June, at nine o'clock in the forenoon to correct the list of voters.

You are hereby required to serve this Warrant by posting attested copies in public places in the Town of Georgetown at least seven days before the time of this meeting.

Given under our hands this 3rd day of June, 2024:

Attest: Alexandra Kelley
Alexandra Kelley, Town Clerk
Robert Trabona
Robert Trabona, Citizen

Jonathan E. Collins
Jonathan E. Collins
Richard W. Donaldson
Richard W. Donaldson
Bronwen Tudor
Bronwen Tudor
Select Board, Town of Georgetown