

**Sample Ballot
Town Meeting Election
Kittery, Maine
June 9, 2015**

Instructions to Voters

- ◆ To vote for the candidate of your choice, fill in the oval to the left, like this: ●
- ◆ To vote for a write-in candidate, fill in the oval to the left of the write-in space and write in the person's name.
- ◆ To have your vote count, do not erase or cross out your choice.
- ◆ If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

Article 2: Shall the town vote to authorize Town Council to transfer up to \$125,000 from unassigned funds (unencumbered surplus) and appropriate and expend up to \$125,000 when necessary into account #2022 Compensated Absences, to maintain a positive fund balance to pay for accrued vacation and /or sick leave to settle any unpaid benefits owed to retiring employees in FY'16?

Town Council Recommends - Vote: Yes 7 No 0

Explanation: The purpose of this article is to provide funds when and if necessary in FY'16, to pay for accrued benefits owed retiring employees. This article transfers funds from the town's unassigned funds (unencumbered surplus) when a municipal employee retires. The reserve account balance is currently \$15,537.04. The purpose of this article in FY'16 is to pay only claims during the year to meet the town's liability and to return the reserve fund to a positive balance.

Yes

No

Article 3: Shall the town vote to authorize Town Council to transfer an amount not to exceed \$25,000 from unassigned funds (unencumbered surplus) when necessary and appropriate and expend up to \$25,000 for the purpose of paying the town's cost on accepted insurance claims against the town?

Town Council Recommends - Vote: Yes 7 No 0

Explanation: The article requests exposing up to \$25,000 from the town's unassigned funds (unencumbered surplus) for use, when necessary, to pay the deductible and other associated costs on insurance claims instead of raising an amount from taxation within the town budget.

Yes

No

Article 4: Shall the town vote to authorize Town Council to transfer an amount not to exceed \$100,000 from unassigned funds (unencumbered surplus) when necessary and appropriate and expend up to \$100,000 for the purpose of providing the town's match to federal, state and non-profit grants?

Town Council Recommends - Vote: Yes 7 No 0

Explanation: The Town Council expects continued applications to be filed for grants in a variety of areas by different town departments to assist with the operations and capital purchases. These grants, if successful, often require a local match to be raised. The article requests that up to \$100,000 from the town's surplus be transferred by the Town Council for the local match share of grants when received and accepted by the Town Council.

Yes

No

Article 5: Shall the town vote to authorize Town Council to transfer from unassigned funds (unencumbered surplus) an amount not to exceed \$40,000, when necessary and appropriate, and expend said amount to cover shortfalls in the FY'16 town departments' fuel accounts due to the unpredictable fuel pricing markets?

Town Council Recommends - Vote: Yes 7 No 0

Explanation: The article is a result of the review of individual departments' vehicle and heating fuel accounts and the unstable fuel market pricing. This account would provide departments, who have exhausted their allocated fuel budgets, access to emergency fuel funds. The Town Council favored keeping the FY'16 fuel and utility accounts as low as possible, with the concept of this article exposing surplus funds as a safety net in case the market remains unstable.

Yes

Article 6: Shall the town vote to authorize Town Council to transfer an amount not to exceed \$40,000 from unassigned funds (unencumbered surplus) when necessary and appropriate and expend said amount for the purpose of providing the town's General Assistance Program as required by town, state and federal laws in FY'16?

Town Council Recommends - Vote: Yes 7 No 0

Explanation: The General Assistance Program is budgeted from the town's operational budget each year. The program assists town citizens with welfare type services by following very strict state and federal guidelines for income eligibility within the General Assistance Ordinance. This article proposes to create a method, as in past years, for the Town Council to keep the General Assistance budget at level funding. If the General Assistance costs exceed the budget, this article would allow the Council to transfer an amount up to \$40,000 from surplus to cover the overage.

Yes

No

Article 7: Shall the Town vote to authorize Town Council to transfer an amount not to exceed \$50,000 when necessary from the unassigned funds (unencumbered surplus) and to appropriate and expend said amount at the discretion of the Town Council to pay for emergency repairs and energy efficiency improvements to town-owned facilities that are not contemplated in the regular FY'16 operating budget?

Town Council Recommends - Vote: Yes 7 No 0

Explanation: Occasionally, repairs to town facilities are needed that have not been budgeted. In addition, energy efficiency projects are being identified to further save the town funds. This Article allows the Town Council the discretion to make emergency facility repairs and undertake energy efficiency projects through the use of up to \$50,000 from the Town's unassigned funds (unencumbered surplus).

Yes

No