

TOWN OF WILTON

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

WARRANT

Tuesday, June 10, 2025
Monday, June 16, 2025

TO: Ethan Kyes, a Constable of the Town of Wilton, in the County of Franklin and State of Maine.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Wilton in said County and State qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to appear at the **Town Office, 158 Weld Road in said town on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 8:00 AM**, then and there to act upon Articles 1 and 2. The polls will be open for voting on Article 2 from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, at which time the meeting will be recessed; the recessed meeting will be reconvened at **Academy Hill School located at 585 Depot Street in said town on Monday, June 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM**, then and there to act on Articles 3 through 60 as set out below, to wit:

ARTICLE 1: To elect a **Moderator** to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To elect all **Municipal Officers** and **School Committee** members as are required to be elected.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Municipal Officers' Order of Discontinuance of 100' feet on the westerly end of Gilbert Street South, without reservation of a public easement in the same, dated May 6, 2025 and filed with the Town Clerk.

Note: The Order of Discontinuance does not call for the appropriation of damages to any abutting property owner.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to 1.) Rescind the vote taken under Article 6 at the Annual Town Meeting held on June 20, 2023 and 2.) require that any action to discontinue, close, approve, authorize, renew or designate an ATV Access Route be done exclusively by majority vote at an annual town meeting.

ARTICLE 5: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Selectpersons and Overseers'** compensation and expenses.

Adopted 2024-2025: \$9,000 Selectboard Recommends: \$9,000 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$9,000 Finance Committee Recommends: \$9,000 vote 3-0

ARTICLE 6: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Planning and Code Enforcement** activities.

Adopted 2024-2025: \$78,592 Selectboard Recommends: \$81,341 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$81,341 Finance Committee Recommends: \$81,341 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 7: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **General Government Administration.**

Adopted 2024-2025: \$460,500 Selectboard Recommends: \$416,319 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$416,319 Finance Committee Recommends: \$416,319 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 8: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Town Office Building Account.**

Adopted 2024-2025: \$32,500 Selectboard Recommends: \$20,000 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$20,000 Finance Committee Recommends: \$20,000 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 9: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Assessing Activities Account.**

Adopted 2024-2025: \$43,875 Selectboard Recommends: \$44,875 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$44,875 Finance Committee Recommends: \$44,875 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 10: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Contingent and Legal Account.**

Adopted 2024-2025 \$22,000 Selectboard Recommends: \$22,000 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$22,000 Finance Committee Recommends: \$22,000 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 11: To see what the sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Technology Account.**

Adopted 2024-2025 \$0.00 Selectboard Recommends: \$102,280 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$102,280 Finance Committee Recommends: \$102,280 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 12: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Insurance Account.**

Adopted 2024-2025: \$153,000 Selectboard Recommends: \$161,000 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$161,000 Finance Committee Recommends: \$161,000 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 13: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Pension and Benefits Reserve Account.**

Adopted 2024-2025: \$17,000 Selectboard Recommends: \$17,000 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$17,000 Finance Committee Recommends \$17,000 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 14: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Police Department.**

Adopted 2024-2025: \$884,580 Selectboard Recommends: \$920,815 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$920,816 Finance Committee Recommends: \$920,815 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 15: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Fire Department.**

Adopted 2024-2025: \$271,390 Selectboard Recommends: \$229,928 vote 5-0

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Proposed 2025-2026: \$229,928 Finance Committee Recommends: \$229,928 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 16: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Public Safety Building** (Fire/Police Station).

Adopted 2024-2025: \$70,150 Selectboard Recommends: \$47,730 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$47,730 Finance Committee Recommends: \$47,730 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 17: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **MaineHealth Emergency Medical Services (Formally NorthStar)** Subsidy.

Adopted 2024-2025: \$30,209 Selectboard Recommends: \$39,284 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$39,284 Finance Committee Recommends: \$39,284 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 18: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Street and Traffic Lighting**.

Adopted 2024-2025: \$31,000 Selectboard Recommends: \$31,000 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$31,000 Finance Committee Recommends: \$31,000 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 19: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Public Fire Protection**.

Adopted 2024-2025: \$216,398 Selectboard Recommends: \$220,000 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$220,000 Finance Committee Recommends: \$220,000 vote 4-0

Note: Public Utilities Commission regulations require a portion of water utility revenue to come from public fire protection payments. For utilities the size of Wilton, this figure is 30%. The rate tariff under which the Town operates requires that funds up to 30% of total water revenue come from so-called "hydrant rental." This article appropriates funds to satisfy that requirement.

ARTICLE 20: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Highway Department**.

Adopted 2024-2025: \$1,304,200 Selectboard Recommends: \$1,158,701 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$1,158,701 Finance Committee Recommends: \$1,158,701 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 21: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Public Works Building** (Town Garage) Account.

Adopted 2024-2025: \$78,000 Selectboard Recommends: \$23,500 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$23,500 Finance Committee Recommends: \$23,500 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 22: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Transfer Station and Recycling** Department.

Adopted 2024-2025: \$346,975 Selectboard Recommends: \$354,986 vote 5-0 Proposed

2025-2026: \$354,986 Finance Committee Recommends: \$354,986 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 23: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Cemetery Operations.

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Adopted 2024-2025: \$77,325 Selectboard Recommends \$77,384 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$77,384 Finance Committee Recommends: \$77,384 vote 4-0

**The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend to raise \$36,384 and appropriate \$41,000 from Cemetery Trust Fund.*

ARTICLE 24: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Town Infrastructure.

Adopted 2024-2025: \$22,850 Selectboard Recommends: \$2,000 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$2,000 Finance Committee Recommends: \$2,000 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 25: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for General Assistance.

Adopted 2024-2025: \$6,000 Selectboard Recommends: \$8,000 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$8,000 Finance Committee Recommends: \$8,000 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 26: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Animal Control.

Adopted 2024-2025: \$19,904 Selectboard Recommends: \$21,851 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$20,851 Finance Committee Recommends: \$21,851 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 27: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Health Officer.

Adopted 2024-2025: \$350 Selectboard Recommends: \$350 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$350 Finance Committee Recommends: \$350 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 28: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Recreation Program.

Adopted 2024-2025: \$154,675 Selectboard Recommends: \$175,161 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$175,161 Finance Committee Recommends: \$175,161 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 29: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Parks and Facilities.

Adopted 2024-2025: \$65,050 Selectboard Recommends: \$60,933 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$60,933 Finance Committee Recommends \$60,933 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 30: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Wilton Free Public Library.

Adopted 2024-2025: \$132,950 Selectboard Recommends: \$132,950 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$132,950 Finance Committee Recommends: \$132,950 vote 4-0

Note: This article provides for funding support for the Wilton Public Library, made as monthly payments. The

library is not a department of the Town.

ARTICLE 31: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Town's Conservation Commission.**

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Adopted 2024-2025: \$365 Selectboard Recommends: \$365 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$365 Finance Committee Recommends: \$365 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 32: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Town Events and the Blueberry Festival.**

Adopted 2024-2025: \$15,000 Selectboard Recommends: \$13,000 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$13,000 Finance Committee Recommends: \$13,000 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 33: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Wilton Area Food Pantry.**

Adopted 2024-2025: \$3,200 Selectboard Recommends: \$3,000 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$0.00 Finance Committee Recommends: \$3,000 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 34: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Tri-County Area Safe Voices.**

Adopted 2024-2025: \$3,200 Selectboard Recommends: \$3,200 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$3,200 Finance Committee Recommends: \$3,200 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 35: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Life Flight.**

Adopted 2024-2025 \$959 Selectboard Recommends: \$959 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$959 Finance Committee Recommends: \$959 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 36: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for **Community Concepts.**

Adopted 2024-2025 \$2,000 Selectboard Recommends: \$2,000 vote 0-5 Proposed 2025-2026: \$2,000 Finance Committee Recommends: \$2,000 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 37: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Care & Share Food Closet.**

Adopted 2024-2025 \$0.00 Selectboard Recommends: \$0.00 vote 0-5 Proposed 2025-2026: \$1,000 Finance Committee Recommends: \$1,000 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 38: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Children's Center.**

Adopted 2024-2025 \$0.00 Selectboard Recommends: \$0.00 vote 0-5 Proposed 2025-2026: \$1,917 Finance Committee Recommends: \$1,917 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 39: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Lake Stewards of Maine.**

Adopted 2024-2025 \$0.00 Selectboard Recommends: \$0.00 vote 0-5 Proposed 2025-2026: \$500 Finance Committee Recommends: \$500 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 40: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation.**

Adopted 2024-2025 \$0.00 Selectboard Recommends: \$0.00 vote 0-5 Proposed 2025-2026: \$100 Finance Committee Recommends: \$100 vote 4-0

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ARTICLE 41: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Children's Center.**

Adopted 2024-2025 \$0.00 Selectboard Recommends: \$0.00 vote 0-5 Proposed 2025-2026: \$1,000 Finance Committee Recommends: \$1,000 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 42: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Town Office Capital Account.**

Adopted 2024-2025: \$0.00 Selectboard Recommends: \$5,000 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026 \$5,000 Finance Committee Recommends: \$5,000 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 43: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Revaluation/Equalization Capital Account.**

Adopted 2024-2025 \$64,150 Selectboard Recommends: \$64,150 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026: \$64,150 Finance Committee Recommends: \$64,150 vote 4-0

**The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommends \$64,150 from Unassigned Fund Balance (surplus).*

ARTICLE 44: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Public Safety Fire Capital Account.**

Adopted 2024-2025: \$0.00 Selectboard Recommends: \$35,000 vote 4-1 Proposed 2025-2026 \$35,000 Finance Committee Recommends: \$35,000 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 45: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Public Safety Police Capital Account.**

Adopted 2024-2025: \$0.00 Selectboard Recommends: \$67,500 vote 3-2 Proposed 2025-2026 \$67,500 Finance Committee Recommends: \$67,500 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 46: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Public Safety Building Capital Account.**

Adopted 2024-2025: \$0.00 Selectboard Recommends: \$23,500 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026 \$23,500 Finance Committee Recommends: \$23,500 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 47: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Public Safety Other Capital Account.**

Adopted 2024-2025: \$0.00 Selectboard Recommends: \$10,000 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026 \$10,000 Finance Committee Recommends: \$10,000 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 48: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Public Works Capital Account**.

Adopted 2024-2025: \$0.00 Selectboard Recommends: \$228,000 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026 \$228,000 Finance Committee Recommends: \$228,000 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 49: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Capital Paving Account**.

Adopted 2024-2025: \$714,000 Selectboard Recommends: \$714,500 vote 4-1

Proposed 2025-2026: \$714,500 Finance Committee Recommends: \$714,500 vote 4-0

**The Selectboard and Finance Committee recommend to raise \$464,500 and appropriate \$250,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance (surplus).*

ARTICLE 50: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Parks & Recreation Capital Account**.

Adopted 2024-2025: \$0.00 Selectboard Recommends: \$23,500 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026 \$23,500 Finance Committee Recommends: \$23,500 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 51: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Cemeteries Capital Account**.

Adopted 2024-2025: \$0.00 Selectboard Recommends: \$8,000 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026 \$8,000 Finance Committee Recommends: \$8,000 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 52: To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the **Town Infrastructure Capital Account**.

Adopted 2024-2025: \$0.00 Selectboard Recommends: \$25,000 vote 5-0 Proposed 2025-2026 \$25,000 Finance Committee Recommends: \$25,000 vote 4-0

ARTICLE 53: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$58,369.49 from the Comfort Inn Omnibus Municipal Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District** to pay a portion of the annual lease/purchase payment for the East Dixfield Shared Mini Pumper Fire Truck.

Selectboard Recommends: Yes – vote 5-0 Finance Committee Recommends: Yes – vote 4-0

Note: This is a portion of the total annual lease payment and is the second of 4 payments, which are shared equally with the Town of Dixfield.

ARTICLE 54: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$30,000 from the Comfort Inn Omnibus Municipal Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District** to pay a portion of the annual Waste Treatment Phase I Rural Development loan.

Selectboard Recommends: Yes – vote 5-0 Finance Committee Recommends: Yes – vote 4-0

Note: This article provides a partial payment for the ninth payment of a thirty-year loan for the Waste Treatment Plant Pump Station upgrade – Phase I. Ratepayers will cover the remainder of the debt service.

ARTICLE 55: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$16,000 from the Comfort Inn Omnibus Municipal Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District to pay an Events Coordinator.

Selectboard Recommends: Yes – vote 5-0 Finance Committee Recommends: Yes – vote 4-0

Note: This article provides the salary for a Town Events Coordinator (Economic Development).

ARTICLE 56: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$55,000 from the Comfort Inn Omnibus Municipal Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District to the Fire Truck Reserve Account.

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Selectboard Recommends: Yes – vote 5-0 Finance Committee Recommends: Yes – vote 4-0

ARTICLE 57: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all REVENUES received that are not dedicated or otherwise appropriated for other expenses to reduce the 2025-2026 tax commitment, and to allow the Selectboard to appropriate funds from Unassigned Fund Balance as it deems advisable and in accordance with the Unassigned Fund Balance Policy to reduce the 2025-2026 tax commitment. Estimated Revenue amount: \$2,323,650.

Selectboard Recommends \$2,323,650: Yes – vote 5-0 Finance Committee Recommends \$2,323,650: Yes – vote 4-0

Note: This article authorizes the application of non-property tax revenue received from July 1, 2025 until June 30, 2026, to the gross budget appropriation set forth in the previous warrant articles, thereby reducing the property tax impact on the citizens. These revenues are estimated.

ARTICLE 58: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum not to exceed \$50,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance to respond to unanticipated expenses and/or emergency conditions during fiscal year 2025-2026, as the Selectboard deems advisable.

Recommended by the Selectboard

Note: If no unanticipated expenses or emergencies occur, the funds stay in Unassigned Fund Balance.

ARTICLE 59: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum not to exceed \$30,000 from Beeline Cable Franchise fees, for the benefit of Beeline Cable subscribers, to be expended or allocated at the direction of the Selectboard.

Recommended by the Selectboard

Note: The Selectboard has annually allocated this money to Mt. Blue TV, Channel 11. These franchise fees have been paid by the subscribers of Beeline Cable. These franchise fees are not raised through the municipal property taxes.

ARTICLE 60: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Unassigned Fund Balance any funds necessary to cover any overages found in the 2024-2025 audit, at the direction of the Selectboard.

ARTICLE 61: To see if the Town will vote to permit the Selectboard to expend ARPA (Federal Covid Funds) for their intended purposes and to execute any and all documents required for such expenditures.

ARTICLE 62: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate 100% of the refund of Snowmobile Registrations, received annually from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to the Woodland Wanderers

Snowmobile Club for maintaining trails and bridges, on the condition that those trails be open to the public for snowmobile purposes at no charge in the snow season.

Recommended by the Selectboard

Note: The amount of the refund for the current year ending June 30, 2024 was \$1,535.84.

ARTICLE 63: (Written ballot required by State statute). To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Wilton by State law, but only in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding Articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.

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ARTICLE 64: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to overdraft accounts with uncontrollable expenditures when necessary.

Recommended by the Selectboard

ARTICLE 65: To see if the Town will vote, in accordance with 36 M.R.S. § 506, to authorize the Tax Collector and Town Treasurer to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed and to pay no interest thereon.

Recommended by the Selectboard

ARTICLE 66: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to accept, on behalf of the Town, unconditional and conditional gifts of money or property excluding roads, rights of way, and easements and provided that no single gift will obligate the Town to incur liabilities that total \$1,000 or more per year, as determined by the Selectboard to be in the best interest of the Town.

Recommended by the Selectboard

ARTICLE 67: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of tax-acquired property on such terms as it deems to be in the best interest of the Town, and to execute all documents on behalf of the Town necessary for such dispositions, provided that the Select Board shall use the sale process in 36 M.R.S. § 943-C for all sales or other dispositions of tax-acquired property to anyone other than the former owner, as defined in § 943-C. For sales to someone other than the former owner, excess sale proceeds, as defined in 36 M.R.S. § 943-C, shall be returned to the former owner.

Recommended by the Selectboard

ARTICLE 68: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to collect real and personal property taxes twice a year, with the first half due and payable on November 3, 2025, and the second half on May 1, 2026, and that interest at the rate of 7.5% per annum be charged on the unpaid balance beginning November 4, 2025 and May 2, 2026, respectively.

Recommended by the Selectboard

Note: Per 36 M.R.S. § 505(4), the maximum rate of interest that can be charged is 7.5%; the Treasurer of State sets this rate each year.

ARTICLE 69: To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate paid by the Town on abated taxes at 3.5% per annum for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and to authorize such interest paid or

abatements granted to be appropriated from overlay funds or, if necessary, from Unassigned Fund Balance.

Recommended by the Selectboard

Note: 36 M.R.S. § 506-A provides the rate of interest may not exceed the rate set for delinquent taxes, nor be less than that rate reduced by 4%.

ARTICLE 70: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to apply for State, federal (including Community Development Block Grants) and other grants on the Town's behalf for purposes deemed by the Selectboard to be in the best interests of the Town; to accept such grants, including, when necessary, the authority to sign contracts and related documents and to accept conditions of approval; and to appropriate such grant funds for any purpose for which the Town has appropriated funds in FY 2025-2026.

Recommended by the Selectboard