

**ABSENTEE
OFFICIAL BALLOT
AMHERST SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION
AMHERST, NEW HAMPSHIRE
MARCH 10, 2026**

BALLOT 1 of 2

Steph W. Ayler
SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

1. **To Vote:** Completely fill in the oval to the right of your choice like this: . For each office vote for up to the number of candidates stated in the sentences: "Vote for not more than 1;" or "Vote for up to X;" "X will be elected." If you vote for more than the stated number of candidates, your vote for that office will not be counted.
2. **To Vote by Write-in:** To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write in the name of the person in the "write-in" space and completely fill in the oval to the right of the "write-in" space like this .

FOR SCHOOL BOARD <small>(3 Years) Vote for up to 2; Two will be elected</small>	FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT MODERATOR <small>(3 Years) Vote for not more than 1</small>	FOR SCHOOL CLERK <small>(3 Years) Vote for not more than 1</small>
OBADIAH DART <input type="radio"/>	(3 Years) <input type="radio"/>	VICTORIA PARISI <input type="radio"/>
MICHAEL ALMEIDA <input type="radio"/>	MATTHEW COMSTOCK <input type="radio"/>	(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>
TERRI BEHM <input type="radio"/>	(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	
KATIE COKELY <input type="radio"/>	FOR SCHOOL TREASURER <small>(3 Years) Vote for not more than 1</small>	
(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	(3 Years) <input type="radio"/>	
(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	TOM GAUTHIER <input type="radio"/>	
	(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	

ARTICLES

Article 12. Citizen Petition Warrant Article #1

To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty seven million dollars (**\$37,000,000**) (gross budget) to finance the major addition and renovation project for the Wilkins Elementary School building, located at 80 Boston Post Road, Amherst, NH and to authorize the issuance of not more than thirty seven million dollars (**\$37,000,000**) of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended; to authorize the School Board to apply for, obtain, accept and expend federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the School Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver said bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof, and to authorize the School Board to take any action or to pass any other vote relative thereto, and further to raise and appropriate an additional sum of nine hundred and twenty five thousand dollars (\$925,000) for the first year's interest payment on the bond. **3/5 ballot vote required.**

TAX IMPACT

Year #1	\$ 925,000.00	\$0.38/\$1,000
Year #2	\$2,561,547.75	\$1.05/\$1,000
Year #3	\$2,560,671.50	\$1.05/\$1,000
Year #4	\$2,563,166.00	\$1.05/\$1,000
Year #5	\$2,563,945.50	\$1.05/\$1,000

Not Recommended by the Amherst School Board (0-5)

Not Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (0-5-1)

YES

NO

Article 13. Citizen Petition Warrant Article #2

To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one dollar (**\$1.00**) (gross budget) for the purpose of financing the major addition, reconstruction and renovation of the Wilkins Elementary School, located at 80 Boston Post Road, Amherst, New Hampshire, and to authorize the issuance of not more than one dollar (**\$1.00**) in bonds or notes under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended. Further, to authorize the School Board to apply for, obtain, and accept any federal, state, or other aid that may be available for said project; to comply with all laws applicable thereto; to issue, negotiate, sell, and deliver such bonds or notes; to determine the rate of interest, maturity, and other terms thereof; and to take any other action or pass any other vote relative thereto. And further, to raise and appropriate the additional sum of \$0 dollars (\$0) for the first year's interest payment on said bonds. **3/5 ballot vote required.**

Not Recommended by the Amherst School Board (0-5)

Not Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (0-5-1)

YES

NO

TURN BALLOT OVER AND CONTINUE VOTING

ARTICLES CONTINUED

Article 14. Open Enrollment

Shall the Amherst School District vote to adopt an open enrollment school program, designating the Clark Wilkins School and the Amherst Middle School as open enrollment schools pursuant to NH RSA 194-D, for the purpose of enabling the district to admit non-resident students to Clark Wilkins School and Amherst Middle School, with one hundred percent (100%) of its eligible resident pupils permitted to attend Clark Wilkins School and Amherst Middle School and up to zero percent (0%) of its resident pupils permitted to attend open enrollment schools located outside of the District, and further, to limit the number of non-resident pupils who may attend Clark Wilkins School and Amherst Middle School under the provisions of RSA 194-D to up to one (1) non resident student. Majority vote required.

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (6-0)

YES

NO

Article 15. Operating Budget

The average cost-per-pupil for the preceding year as calculated in accordance with RSA 189:75, I(a) is \$23,894. ELA Proficiency: 68%; Math Proficiency: 69%; Science Proficiency: 48%

Shall the Amherst School District 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 thirty-five million six hundred three thousand ninety four dollars (\$35,603,094)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be thirty four million nine hundred fifty three thousand nine hundred eighty three dollars (\$34,953,983) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Amherst School District 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? Majority vote required.

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (7-0)

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.17 per thousand.

Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is: -\$0.09 per thousand.

*NOTE: Article 15 (operating budget) does not include appropriations proposed in any other warrant articles

YES

NO

Article 16. AEA Collective Bargaining Agreement

Shall the Amherst School District approve all cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Amherst School Board and the Amherst Education Association (AEA) which calls for the following estimated increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase	Estimated Tax Impact
2027	\$655,017	\$0.27 per thousand

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$655,017 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels? Majority vote required.

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (Advisory Budget Committee) (7-0)

YES

NO

Article 17. Special Meeting for AEA Collective Bargaining Agreement

Shall the Amherst School District, if Article 16 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 16 cost items only? Majority vote required.

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (4-1)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (Advisory Budget Committee) (6-1)

YES

NO

GO TO NEXT BALLOT AND CONTINUE VOTING

**ABSENTEE
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AMHERST SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION
AMHERST, NEW HAMPSHIRE
MARCH 10, 2026**

BALLOT 2 of 2

Steph W. Cagle
SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK

ARTICLES CONTINUED

Article 18. ASSA Collective Bargaining Agreement

Shall the Amherst School District approve all cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the Amherst School Board and the Amherst Support Staff Association (ASSA) which calls for the following estimated increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase	Estimated Tax Impact
2027	\$167,298	\$0.07 per thousand
2028	\$160,342	\$0.07 per thousand
2029	\$159,111	\$0.07 per thousand
2030	\$166,294	\$0.07 per thousand

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$167,298** for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels? **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (Advisory Budget Committee) (7-0)

YES

NO

Article 19. Special Meeting for ASSA Collective Bargaining Agreement

Shall the Amherst School District, if Article 18 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 18 cost items only? **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (4-1)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (Advisory Budget Committee) (6-1)

YES

NO

Article 20. Tuition Agreement with Mont Vernon School District

Shall the Amherst School District ratify and approve a new four (4) year tuition agreement with the Mont Vernon School District to allow for continued education of Mont Vernon students at the Amherst Middle School beginning July 1, 2026 in accordance with the proposed Tuition Agreement on file with the School District Clerk? **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (Advisory Budget Committee) (7-0)

YES

NO

Article 21. Portable Purchase (2 Classrooms)

Shall the Amherst School District authorize the Amherst School Board to purchase and install a portable (2 classrooms) at the Clark/Wilkins Elementary School for the total amount of seven hundred seventy thousand five hundred eighty five dollars (**\$770,585**), and to raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred seventy thousand five hundred eighty five dollars (**\$770,585**) for that purpose (purchase and installation of a portable (2 classrooms) at the Clark/Wilkins Elementary School)? This sum to come from new taxation. **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (4-1)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (7-0)

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.32 per thousand.

YES

NO

Article 22. Capital Facilities Expendable Trust Fund (Taxation)

Shall the Amherst School District raise and appropriate the sum of three hundred twenty five thousand dollars (**\$325,000**) to be added to the Amherst School District Capital Facilities Repair, Maintenance and Improvement Expendable Trust Fund, previously established in March 2003? This sum to come from new taxation. **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (7-0)

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.13 per thousand.

YES

NO

TURN BALLOT OVER AND CONTINUE VOTING

ARTICLES CONTINUED

Article 23. Capital Facilities Expendable Trust Fund (UFB)

Shall the Amherst School District raise and appropriate the sum of up to six hundred seventy five thousand dollars (**\$675,000**) to be added to the Amherst School District Capital Facilities Repair, Maintenance and Improvement Expendable Trust Fund, previously established in March 2003? This sum to come from the June 30, 2026 unassigned fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1, 2026. No amount to be raised from new taxation. **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (7-0)

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.00 per thousand.

Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is:- \$0.28 per thousand.

YES

NO

Article 24. Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund (UFB)

Shall the Amherst School District raise and appropriate the sum of up to forty five thousand dollars (**\$45,000**) to be added to the Vehicle Expendable Trust Fund previously established in March 2024? This sum to come from the June 30, 2026 unassigned fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1, 2026. No amount to be raised from new taxation. **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (7-0)

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.00 per thousand.

Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is: -\$0.02 per thousand.

YES

NO

Article 25. Technology Expendable Trust Fund (UFB)

Shall the Amherst School District raise and appropriate the sum of up to seventy five thousand dollars (**\$75,000**) to be added to the Technology Expendable Trust Fund previously established in March 2024? This sum to come from the June 30, 2026 unassigned fund balance (surplus) available for transfer on July 1, 2026. No amount to be raised from new taxation. **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (7-0)

Estimated tax impact of passing this article is: \$0.00 per thousand.

Estimated tax impact of not passing this article is: -\$0.03 per thousand.

YES

NO

Article 26. Capital Facilities-Donations Expendable Trust Fund; Accept Donated Gifts, Legacies, Devises

Shall the Amherst School District adopt the provisions of RSA 198:20-c, VI to authorize the acceptance of privately donated gifts, legacies, and devises, provided that such gifts, legacies or devises shall be invested and accounted for separately from, and not commingled with, amounts appropriated from taxation and further, any such privately donated gifts, legacies, and devises, shall be subject to the custody and investment provisions applicable to trust funds accepted under RSA 31:31, and further, shall the District establish a Capital Facilities-Donations Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 198:20-c, for the purpose of repairing, maintaining, and improving capital facilities in the Amherst School District, and to authorize the deposit of any privately donated gifts, legacies and devises into this fund, along with the use and expenditure of said funds, for this purpose, and further, to name the Amherst School Board as agents to expend from said fund? **Majority vote required.**

Recommended by the Amherst School Board (5-0)

Recommended by the Amherst School District Ways & Means (advisory budget committee) (7-0)

YES

NO

YOU HAVE NOW COMPLETED VOTING THIS BALLOT