

FREMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT

2013 VOTERS' GUIDE

This is a guide for the upcoming Annual Meeting Session II. It has been prepared to provide you additional information for your voting decisions, prior to entering into the voting booth on Tuesday, March 12, 2013.

The following includes a sample ballot format with the associated tax impact for each article. This has been prepared as a follow-up to the actions taken at the Deliberative Session and includes changes made at that meeting.

If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact the SAU #83 Business Office at 895-6903.

We hope this information assists in your understanding of the issues to be voted upon at the 2013 Annual School District Meeting, Second Session.

Ida Keane Andrew Kohlhofer Deborah Genthner Sharon Girardi Gregory Fraize

Fremont School Board

In our third year of the SB2 School District Meeting, this Voters' Guide has been prepared to provide additional information to assist voters in making informed decisions about the many challenges facing the Town. The process is different with regard to activity on this warrant. The Official Warrants remain as one document. They were reviewed and discussed at the Deliberative Session. Following any changes at that session, a final format of the questions are created, called the Official Ballot. Thus SB2 is called the Official Ballot law. Following the Deliberative Session, this VOTERS' GUIDE is prepared to include the changes from Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 2nd. At that session, 119 registered voters were in attendance, and all Articles on the Warrant were reviewed and discussed. This document includes the final text of all material to be voted on at the polls on March 12, 2013.

Voting on the finalized Official Ballot will take place on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at the Laurence Pettengill Hall, Ellis School, 432 Main Street, Fremont, NH. Polls are open from the hours of 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. You can also request an absentee ballot for this session by contacting the Fremont Town Clerk for information at 895-8693.

In this Voters' Guide, the warrant article is written in plain text. For voter information, we have also included the associated tax rate estimates below each article, in *italics*. This information, with all Warrant Articles as amended, will appear on the Official Ballot. The School Board and the Budget Committee recommendations on all Warrant Articles are included. The type of vote required appears in parentheses at the end of each article as well, such as majority or 2/3 vote requirements.

In 2012, the School's portion of the tax rate was \$20.99. You can also refer to historical tax rate information elsewhere in the 2012 Town Report.

School Warrant Articles

ARTICLE 1:

School Board member - 2 for 3 years

Tammy Kitt

Andrew P. Kohlhofer

Sue Lynehan

Antje McKee-Courcy

Write in _____

School District Moderator - 1 for 1 year

No candidates declared

Write in _____

School District Clerk – 1 for 1 year

No candidates declared

School District Treasurer – 1 for 1 year

Elizabeth J. Stanley

Write in _____

Write in _____

ARTICLE 2: Shall the Fremont 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 purpose therein set forth, totaling Eleven Million Two Hundred Sixty Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifteen Dollars (\$11,265,715.). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$11,429,325. which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Fremont 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. NOTE: This operating budget warrant article does not include appropriations proposed under any other warrant articles.

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

(Recommended by the Fremont Budget Committee 5-3)

The estimated tax impact is \$0.70 per thousand (\$1.15 per thousand for the Default).

ARTICLE 3: To see if the District will vote to approve the cost items included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement reached between the School Board and the Fremont Education Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits over those that would be paid at current staffing levels minus five (5) teachers:*

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increases</u>
2013-2014	\$44,940.
2014-2015	\$85,110.

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Dollars (\$44,940.) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at the current staffing levels minus five (5) teachers.*

**(Note: The School Board anticipates reducing the teaching staff for the 2013-2014 school year by five full time positions.)*

(Recommended by the Fremont School Board 4-1)
(Not Recommended by the Fremont Budget Committee 5-3)

The estimated tax impact is \$0.12 per thousand.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the Fremont School District, if Article Three (3) is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article Three (3) cost items only?

(Recommended by the Fremont School Board 5-0)
(Not Recommended by the Fremont Budget Committee 5-3)

No tax impact.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the District will vote to approve a collective bargaining cost item amending the current support staff collective bargaining agreement to cover the cost of the District's share of health insurance premiums for paraprofessionals in the amount of \$62,980 and raise and appropriate \$62,980 to avoid imposition of the Affordable Care Act penalty that the District will otherwise be required to pay, if health insurance is not available to these employees. If this article is approved, the default budget in Article 2 shall be reduced by \$88,000, which is the amount of the penalty the District would otherwise be required to pay if this article is defeated and health insurance is not made available to paraprofessionals.

(Recommended by the Fremont School Board 5-0)
(Recommended by the Fremont Budget Committee 5-2 (Abstained – 1))

The estimated tax impact is \$0.17 per thousand (-\$0.24 per thousand reduction on the Default Budget).

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Fremont School District, if Article Five (5) is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article Five (5) cost items only?

(Recommended by the Fremont School Board 5-0)
(Not Recommended by the Fremont Budget Committee 4-4)

No tax impact.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Fremont School District will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be added to the previously established expendable trust fund, known as the Ellis School Building and Grounds Maintenance Fund. This sum to come from the June 30, 2013 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2013. No amount to be raised by taxation.

(Recommended by the Fremont School Board 5-0)
(Recommended by the Fremont Budget Committee 8-0)

The estimated tax impact would be \$.00 per thousand as funds would come from the unassigned fund balance.

ARTICLE 8. Shall the Fremont School District accept the provisions of RSA 198:20-b providing that any School District at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the School Board to apply for, accept and expend, without further action by the School District meeting, unanticipated money from a state, federal, or other governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year?

(Recommended by the Fremont School Board 5-0)
(Not Recommended by the Fremont Budget Committee 5-2 (Abstained -1))

No tax impact.

ARTICLE 9. Shall the Fremont School District vote to authorize, indefinitely until rescinded, the retention of year-end unassigned general funds in an amount not to exceed, in any fiscal year 2.5 percent of the current fiscal year's net assessment. In accordance with RSA 198:4-b, II. Such fund balance retained can only be used to reduce the tax rate or for emergency expenditures and over-expenditures under RSA 32:11 which are approved by the Department of Education.

(Recommended by the Fremont School Board 5-0)
(Not Recommended by the Fremont Budget Committee 4-4)

No tax impact.

Please be sure to vote on Election Day Tuesday, March 12, 2013.

Polls are open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm at

**Ellis School
432 Main Street
Fremont, NH**

Contact the Town Clerk for absentee ballot information at 895-8693.
Check the Town website for further information and details.

www.Fremont.nh.gov

