

Town of Fremont 2023 Town Meeting Voting Results

Pursuant to NH RSA 40:13 II, the first session of the 2023 Town Meeting (the Deliberative Session) was held on Saturday February 4, 2023 at the Ellis School at 432 Main Street in Fremont NH at 9:00 am. The second session (voting session) was held on Tuesday March 14, 2023 at the Fremont Safety Complex at 425 Main Street in Fremont NH with polls open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. All articles were voted upon by official ballot. A total of 574 residents voted, including 96 absentee and 5 new voters registered on Election Day. The polling location was moved to the Safety Complex after the Moderator reviewed the National Weather Service Warnings and Watches, consulted with public safety and highway officials, School Administration and Town Administration and the Town Clerk due to the forecasts of widespread power outages. There is no emergency backup power source at Ellis School.

Extra personnel were on hand for maintenance as well as highway crews to keep parking lots and voter access areas clear, and several volunteers were available for rides if needed. All of this updated information on polling was posted on Monday afternoon beginning at approximately 2:00 pm to include paper postings at every town and school building, area businesses and community centers, on the electronically lit sign at Ellis School, and sent via messaging through the School emergency notification network, and posted several times with e-blasts on the Town website as well as on the Community FB Page, FCTV and Fire Rescue FB pages.

ARTICLE 1: To choose by ballot all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

Budget Committee: 2 for 3 years

Joshua Yokela	257
Brenda Beauchain	348
Ellen Douglas	65

Budget Committee: 1 for 1 year

Nancy Murray	283
Patricia Martel	207
Ellen Douglas	4
Other	4

Cemetery Trustee: 1 for 3 years

Matthew Thomas	497
Michael LeClair	5
Other	5

Library Trustee: 1 for 3 years

John Hennelly	487
Other	2

Select Board Member: 1 for 3 years

Gene Cordes	487
Josh Yokela	3
Other	8

Town Clerk Tax Collector: 1 for 3 years

Nicole Cloutier	503
Other	5

Trustee of Trust Funds: 1 for 3 years

Jeanne Nygren	487
Other	3

ARTICLE 2: Are you in favor of the proposed amendments to Article 4 and Article 7 (Zoning Proposal 1) submitted by the Fremont Planning Board for the Fremont Zoning Ordinance as follows:

New text

~~Deleted text~~

Add the following to Section 403 – Definitions:

MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR SHOP: The use of any building, land area or other premise used principally for the servicing and repair of automobiles, recreational vehicles, or other similarly sized vehicles.

MOTOR VEHICLE SALES: The use of any building, land area or other premise used principally for the display, sale, rental, or lease of new or used automobiles (but may include light trucks or vans, trailers,

Town of Fremont 2023 Town Meeting Voting Results

or recreation vehicles), and including any vehicle preparations, warranty, or repair work conducted as an accessory use.

Revise Section 708 - Table of Uses as follows (P – Permitted; X – Prohibited):

	Zoning Districts			
	SH	MS	FUR	R
Motor Vehicle Repair Shop	P	P	X	X
Motor Vehicle Showroom Motor Vehicle Sales	P	P	X	X

The Planning Board recommends this Article 5-0-0. (Majority vote required)

YES 407 NO 147

ARTICLE 3: Are you in favor of the proposed amendments to Article 12 (Zoning Proposal 2) submitted by the Fremont Planning Board for the Fremont Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Remove the following from the Aquifer Protection District:

Definition in Section 1203.4 (Existing) Animal Feedlot: ~~A commercial agricultural establishment consisting of confined feeding areas and related structures used for the raising of livestock. An animal feedlot shall be considered one on which more than five (5) animals are raised simultaneously.~~

Prohibited Uses in Section 1203.8.D(9) (Existing) ~~Animal feedlots. (see definitions—five (5) or more animals)~~

The Planning Board recommends this Article 5-0-0. (Majority vote required)

YES 395 NO 156

ARTICLE 4: Are you in favor of the proposed amendment to Article 13 (Zoning Proposal 3) submitted by the Fremont Planning Board for the Fremont Zoning Ordinance as follows:

Add the following to Article 1301.1 – Elderly Open Space:

Pursuant to RSA 674:17, IV, any increased density, reduced lot size, expedited approval, or other dimensional or procedural incentive under this elderly open space ordinance is deemed applicable to a development of workforce housing as defined in RSA 674:58, IV. Any proposed workforce housing development shall comply with the provisions of the Fremont zoning ordinance, site plan and subdivision regulations with respect to environmental protection, water supply, sanitary disposal, traffic safety and fire and life safety protection.

The Planning Board recommends this Article 5-0-0. (Majority vote required)

YES 415 NO 135

ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town of Fremont 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 \$4,104,296? Should this Article be defeated, the default budget shall be

Town of Fremont 2023 Town Meeting Voting Results

\$3,971,859 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Fremont 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 contained in ANY other warrant articles. **The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 5-2-0.** (Majority vote required)

YES 364 NO 197

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred five thousand dollars (\$405,000) to purchase a new fire tanker truck and equipment for the Fire Rescue Department with \$305,000 from the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund and \$100,000 to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. No amount from taxation. This Special Warrant Article will be non-lapsing and will not lapse until the fire tanker purchase is completed or by December 31, 2024 whichever is sooner. **The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-1.** (Majority vote required)

YES 442 NO 126

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the Bridge Construction and Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund. **The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-0-0.** (Majority vote required)

YES 439 NO 127

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. **The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 6-0-1.** (Majority vote required)

YES 412 NO 150

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-six thousand forty-six dollars (\$46,046) to hire a new full-time police officer. This sum covers five months of wages and benefits and necessary gear, equipment and required testing for the officer. If approved, this funding will remain as part of the operating and default budget in future years. **The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 4-3-0.** (Majority vote required)

YES 320 NO 247

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) to be placed in the Fremont Computer Equipment Expendable Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. No additional amount to be raised from taxation. **The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 5-2-0.** (Majority vote required)

YES 402 NO 157

Town of Fremont 2023 Town Meeting Voting Results

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Library Building Maintenance Expendable Town Trust Fund previously established. This sum to come from Unassigned Fund Balance. No additional amount to be raised from taxation. **The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 7-0-0.** (Majority vote required)

YES 411 NO 154

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will authorize an increase in the Cemetery Trustee Stipend by fifty dollars (\$50) each to be a total of two hundred dollars (\$200) per Trustee per year; and further to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty (\$150) for this purpose. **The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 4-3-1.** (Majority vote required)

YES 417 NO 145

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will authorize an increase in the Town Clerk Tax Collector's annual salary by one thousand eight hundred ninety-four dollars (\$1,894) to be a total of thirty-nine thousand seven hundred eighty dollars (\$39,780); and further to raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand eight hundred ninety-four dollars (\$1,894) for this purpose. **The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 5-2-0.** (Majority vote required)

YES 367 NO 198

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will authorize an increase in the Road Agent's annual stipend by two thousand (\$2,000) to be a total of six thousand five hundred dollars (\$6,500); and further to raise and appropriate the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for this purpose. **The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 4-3-1.** (Majority vote required)

YES 408 NO 158

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in the Historic Museum Capital Reserve Fund. **The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation 4-3-0.** (Majority vote required)

YES 268 NO 290

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-four thousand dollars (\$34,000) to continue the Public Health Mosquito Control Program. **The Select Board recommends this appropriation 3-0. The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation 5-3.** (Majority vote required)

YES 315 NO 249

Town of Fremont 2023 Town Meeting Voting Results

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Fremont Parks and Recreation Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a, for addition of structural amenities and to raise and appropriate five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to put in the fund, with this amount to come from general taxation. **The Parks & Recreation Commission recommends this Article 4-0-0. The Select Board recommends this Article 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this article 6-2.** (Majority vote required)

YES 349 NO 214

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to increase the all-volunteer Parks and Recreation Commission membership from five (5) to seven (7) members. **The Parks & Recreation Commission recommends this Article 4-0-0. The Select Board recommends this Article 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this Article 7-1.** (Majority vote required)

YES 383 NO 177

ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town of Fremont readopt the Optional Veterans' Tax Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28, II, for an annual tax credit on residential property of \$750?

The Select Board recommends this Article 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this Article 7-0-1. (Majority vote required)

YES 504 NO 57

ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town of Fremont readopt the All Veterans' Tax Credit in accordance with RSA 72:28-b, for an annual tax credit on residential property which shall be the same amount as the Optional Veterans' Tax Credit voted by the Town of Fremont under RSA 72:28? **The Select Board recommends this Article 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this Article 7-0-1.** (Majority vote required)

YES 505 NO 57

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to designate as Town Forest, in accordance with NH RSA 31:110, the following parcels of land: 04-066 and 04-066.001. **The Select Board recommends this Article 3-0. The Conservation Commission recommends this Article 5-0. The Budget Committee recommends this Article 6-1-0.** (Majority vote required)

YES 484 NO 76

ARTICLE 22: By Petition: Are you in favor of increasing the board of selectmen to 5 members? **The Select Board does not recommend this Article 3-0. The Budget Committee recommends this Article 5-3.** (Majority vote required)

YES 126 NO 439

This contains the Town's record of the 2023 Town Meeting voting (5 pages total).

Certified by the Town Clerk:

Nicole E Cloutier



Dated: 17 March 2023

Town of Fremont 2023 Town Meeting Voting Results

For voter information and to preserve the Town's Official Records, the following is documented for the processes undertaken to move the voting location and make a decision about polling on March 14th.

Discussions on how to safely hold Fremont's Town/School voting began on Saturday March 11, 2023 between the Town Moderator, Town Clerk, and Town Administrator. Weather data gathering began, and research began on how to postpone if needed, and the procedural matters the Town needed to follow if it were to be postponed.

Relied upon were several area weather forecasts sent to the town by utility companies serving the area, the National Weather Service and the broadcasts pushed out to the Town's Emergency Management Director; as well as the Highway Department's subscription weather service specific to the Fremont community.

This was posted on the Town's website and Fremont Community FB page on Saturday morning/afternoon to start to inform the voters of a potential change in the voting that was to take place on Tuesday:

Town Voting Information

Good morning Fremont,

As you are probably aware we have a considerable Nor'easter storm bearing down on us forecasted to bring winds and potentially 8-12 inches of heavy snow on Tuesday. Unfortunately, this Tuesday is also Town voting. I am working with town officials, the road agent, and other officials to determine our best course of action. Just a couple of years ago, we had this same issue and received 16 inches of snow and this great town of ours showed up to vote without any issues. The only caveat this time is that the power is potentially going to be impacted. As you know we hold our voting in the Ellis School Gym, and unfortunately our school does not have a backup generator. So, what are the current options?

- Hold it at the school and pray for no power loss*
- Potentially move it to the safety complex which has a backup generator (this has complications with meeting the states polling place size and number of voters, the original reason why we moved to the school)*
- Postpone voting to a later date. This again poses problems in scheduling with the school and getting volunteers that took Tuesday off from work to help.*

Please bear with us as we work through this to find the best and safest course of action. We will try to keep everyone updated as this is a fluid situation. Stay tuned.

Don't forget the bread and milk today 😊.

*Thank you,
Michael Rydeen
Fremont Town Moderator*

Updates were made to the Town's website, homepage article that also sends an email blast later on Saturday afternoon extending hours for absentee ballots from 1:30 to 5 on Monday; and again on Sunday afternoon when the Town Clerk indicated that someone would be at the Town Clerk's Office for absentee ballots from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Monday.

Town of Fremont 2023 Town Meeting Voting Results

A meeting was posted on Saturday afternoon for the Moderator to meet with other public safety, highway, EMD School and Town administrative staff and Officials to make a decision, at 12:30 pm on Monday March 13, 2023 at the Fremont Town Hall.

Monday morning March 13th absentee ballot forms were copied in mass and left on counters throughout the Town Hall, and the Town Clerk processed 75 ballots for voters all morning. Nine (9) voting stations with privacy binders, instructions for voters and pens were set up in the Town Hall for voters to mark their absentee ballots.

Contact was made with the Town's Attorney on the procedural items for consideration, and following that the NHMA sent out a meeting guidance document relative to voting and postponement of Town meetings and voting.

The Moderator also reached out to the Secretary of State (SOS) to understand if there are any legal issues with moving the voting to the Safety Complex. The SOS indicated that there are no legal issue with moving, we just need to make sure that we post and inform the voters in every which way we can, which is what the team did. There was also concern with how many voting booths we would be able to setup in the Safety Complex to meet the RSA guidelines. For local elections, we need one voting booth for each 125 voters. With 3,313 registered voters, this means that we would need 27 booths. Luckily, we were able to fit them in the space that we had. But for future consideration, the SOS said that they could provide a variance if it was needed.

Per RSA 669:1 on postponement, if the election officials decided to postpone the election, it must be exactly 2 weeks after the election date. That would place voting on March 28th.

On Monday afternoon at 12:40, after hearing all the discussions on the possible election scenarios:

- the weather forecast was supposed to be bad with potential of power outages where Eversource was sending crews up from Virginia to help.
- the School Superintendent expressed that the school gym would not be available on the 28th
- We could not depend on all of the election volunteers to be available on the 28th
 - The Select Board
 - The Supervisors of Checklist
 - All of the ballot clerks
 - The setup crew
 - Other election workers
- And listening to a few Fremont Voters who expressed their willingness to Vote in the blizzard.

It was decided that Fremont would not postpone their election, but they would move it to the Safety Complex in case of a power outage. As well, town workers would be stationed at the Safety Complex to help with cleaning the walkways, doorways and parking lots to make sure voters would have easy access to the polling place. The Safety Complex is across the street from the School, so even if voters did not get the information, they could easily see signage to go to the Safety Complex.

After this decision, the Town Website was updated, an email blast went out through the Town's news posting, the Fremont School District notification process. The change in location began running on the external LED sign at Ellis School, which is across the street from the Safety Complex.

Town of Fremont 2023 Town Meeting Voting Results

The Moderator posted the below on the Fremont Community FB Site:

**** ATTENTION ****

VOTING LOCATION CHANGE

Good Afternoon Fremonters,

After discussion with state and local officials, we have decided that we will still hold our Town Elections tomorrow (Tuesday). But due to the storm and for the safety of both the voters and the volunteers, we are moving the Town Voting to the Safety Complex which is right across the street from the School. Please get the word out to your friends and neighbors so everyone is aware of the changes. We have taken all of the required steps to inform people, but nothing travels faster than word of mouth (or text).

If you do not want to travel in the storm tomorrow, the Town Hall is open until 5:00 today for absentees. I was just down there and a lot of people are taking advantage of this avenue. There are 2 areas for parking at the Safety Complex. You will need to enter in from the back side in the meeting room door.

Same hours: 7am to 8pm

Thank you,

[Michael Rydeen](#)

Fremont Town Moderator

Additionally posters were made (and laminated in the case of them being posted outdoors) noting the polling would take place on March 14, 2023 at the Fremont Safety Complex with polls open from 7:00 to 8:00 am. This was posted at the Town Hall, Fremont Public Library, Ellis School on all doors, the Fremont Safety Complex, both general stores in Town, the Black Rocks Community Center, Fremont Post Office, and Colonial Poplin. Slides were posted to the Community bulletin board on FCTV Channel 22 and the slides were shared on the FCTV FB page.