

All the news that's worth voting about in **YOUR** town!



Paid for by the Suncook Valley GOP 700 Suncook Valley Hwy Epsom, NH 03234 K. Cardone Holmes, Editor

Issue 1. March 2026

Why did my property taxes jump?

BY DAN MCGUIRE

If your town had a revaluation lately, as Epsom did last year, you may have needed smelling salts after opening your December bill. It wasn't unusual for bills to be 25% or even 50% higher than they were in July. What happened?

..... **DID WE VOTE TO GET CHAUFFEURS FOR ALL THE SELECTMEN?**

No (that probably would have been cheaper). What happened was a boom in the New Hampshire real estate market over the last ten years. We have done such a good job of making New Hampshire as a great place to live (or conversely, Massachusetts and other places have done their **darndest** to chase people out), that housing prices have ballooned 100% in a short period of time. Plus,

..... **"MORE PEOPLE THAN EVER WORK FROM HOME & BUY ONLINE,** **DEPRESSING THE VALUE OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTY."**

This has caused property taxes to shift away from businesses & onto homes. Of course, our schools and towns continue to get regular increases, but that's a secondary effect.

The only feasible solution is to lower local expenses, particularly in schools. There are states in the country like Idaho and Utah, that spend half of what we do per pupil, and still get good outcomes. We're the sixth-highest spending state on public education, and number two on school administration. It might also help to build enough housing stock to meet demand, but that is neither cheap nor quick.

Yet, despite those tax bills, **PEOPLE DON'T SHOW UP FOR DELIBERATIVE SESSION** (for SB2 towns and school districts) in January where they can change budgets. Similarly, voting in March is an abysmal one quarter or one fifth of the number of voters in November. **WE OF THE SUNCOOK VALLEY TAXPAYER BELIEVE THE REASON IS THE PEOPLE AREN'T AWARE OF MEETINGS OR VOTING DAYS. ERGO THIS PAPER!**

What's herein ?

Chichester's Bru-haha : Page 2

(Resolved "by the people") NH's Best Kept Secret

Page 2 & 8

Converting a District School to Charter? Page 6

(The NH way)

What's this Open Enrollment? Page 3

SV Taxpayer Pics (Every page!)

Let's talk Educational Freedom Accounts Page 5



Don't Miss Out! VOTE March 10th



Postal Customer
Local

PRRST STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

*****ECRWSS*****

Our small state of New Hampshire handily claims the title to be "The Best in the World" at something. Do you know what it is?



Maple Syrup?
Mountain Hiking?
Scenic drives?

Whoopie Pies?
No, no, no, no!
The answer is herein.....



A Treasurer's Office That Works for Chichester Taxpayers

I'm **Robyn Lebreton** running for Town Treasurer because Chichester deserves clear, financial information, current & easy to understand.

Changes I want to make:

- Weekly and monthly reporting: simple budget vs. actual updates, key balances, and trend highlights that residents and the Select Board can quickly understand.
- Better visibility and accountability: catching issues early so we reduce surprises and make decisions based on real data, not assumptions.
- Stronger, consistent processes: clear workflows for purchasing & documentation to reduce errors and protect taxpayers, without creating red tape.
- Modern tools that save time: using practical systems that make reporting easier to produce and easier to access.

I'm active in town government, serving on the Budget Committee and as a Trustee of the Trust Funds. Professionally, I work in bookkeeping and finance, and I have a systems and technology background from my service in the U.S. Navy. I'm detail-oriented, process-driven, & committed to steady, transparent financial management.

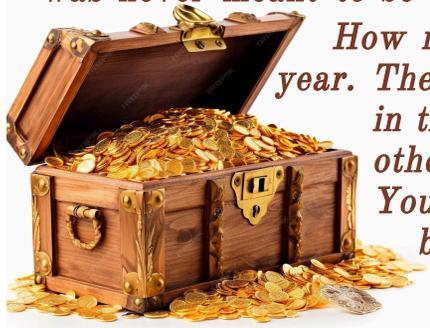
If you want a Treasurer's office focused on service & accountability, I would be honored to earn your vote this March, **Robyn Lebreton**

The Suncook Valley Taxpayer based its Chichester pics on the candidates' backgrounds and knowledge that would most suit the office being sought.



Do You Know What You Have Here?

New Hampshire runs its government closer to the original framers than any other state. Holding office was never meant to be a source of livelihood but a hobby job. You do the work because you love it.



How many people are aware that your state representatives and senators are paid \$100 per year. The tasks they carry out on our behalf require hundreds of hours a year reading, working in their committees, listening to hours on end of testimonies from the citizenry to gather other knowledge that might not be in their wheelhouse. This is all on live stream to watch. You can send our own testimony to any committee and cast your own vote, being for or against any bill being considered. I came to NH in 1979. I found a treasure! Speaking from the peanut gallery, **K. Cardone Holmes**

Chichester's Meet & Greet Candidate nights are always extremely informative. Thank you moderators Sally & Ewen!

TOWN OF CHICHESTER

Selectman (3 years)
Vote for not more than one

Jeremy Letendre

Corie St. Germain

Selectman (1 year)
Vote for not more than one

Gilbert E. Vien

Chris Weir

Carrienne Wood

Supervisor of the Checklist
(6 years) Vote for not more than one

Mary Dobson

Cemetery Trustee (3 years)
Vote for not more than one

Ruth E. Hammen

For Town Clerk (3 years)
Vote for not more than one

Bonnie Potter

For Tax Collector (3 years)
Vote for not more than one

Bonnie Potter

For Treasure (3 years)
Vote for not more than one

Andrea Deachman

Robyn Lebreton

Central School Ballot

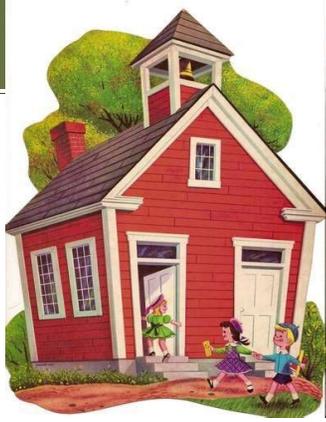
Chichester School District Treasure
Kristen Saturley

Bringing Solutions to Chichester in the Form of Transparency

" While most of Chichester's candidates promise to bring transparency to the inner workings of Chichester, **Robyn Lebreton** has already been using her technical skills to bring it to the Selectman's meetings, providing the opportunity for residents to watch the regular meetings online, from their homes. Secondly she has the tools to modernize Chichester's abysmal bill paying system which caused our county seat to label us "The Delinquent Child." The town treasure MUST have the skills to upgrade.

Chris Weir certainly does his homework. He has a thorough understanding of the RSA's our town must abide by...protecting us from lawsuits.. He believes town government should function with clear lines of authority, consistent oversight, and active engagement from board members, not passive delegation of authority to administrative support staff.

The Suncook Valley Taxpayer appreciates both of these candidates sacrifices in helping Chichester "Get it right."



Open enrollment lets a student choose any public school, not just the closest one.

The idea is that letting students go to the school of their choice, even if it is in another town, will foster competition for

students and that **competition will yield better outcomes.** As Gen. Patton remarked,

“Pressure creates diamonds.”

Open enrollment is not new. 46 states, including New Hampshire, have some form, and half of those have universal (any school) open enrollment. Minnesota was the first state to adopt it nearly 40 years ago. Today almost 10% of students there attend a school outside their home district.

New Hampshire’s version of open enrollment is fairly cumbersome, so to date only one school has chosen to receive outside students. *However, the legislature is poised to enact a law, HB 751, which creates universal open enrollment. It could even be law by the time you read this.*

Under HB 751, all schools must post on their website their available capacity in all grades. Students from other areas can then apply for transfers and those applications essentially must be accepted until the school is full. The sending district then pays the receiving district at least 80% of their average cost per pupil, regardless of the cost of the receiving district.

If the receiving district’s costs are higher, parents must kick in the difference as tuition. This is usually a good deal for the receiving school as the marginal cost of adding a pupil to a partially filled classroom is generally less than the average cost of all students (some costs like facilities, custodians, library and administration are mostly fixed).

If a student chooses to attend a different school, neither the sending nor the receiving school is required to provide transportation.

Open enrollment has been a success in other states. While it will take a bit of time for the system to shake out, students attending schools that fit them will likely learn more and have fewer behavior problems. Schools might also specialize in certain areas the way colleges do.

Providers prefer not to compete.

You may see a warrant article on your ballot related to open enrollment, often **trying to restrict students from your district from going elsewhere** (See table at right). Those warrant articles are only relevant under current law, and would be obviated by HB 751.

Making Schools GREAT again!

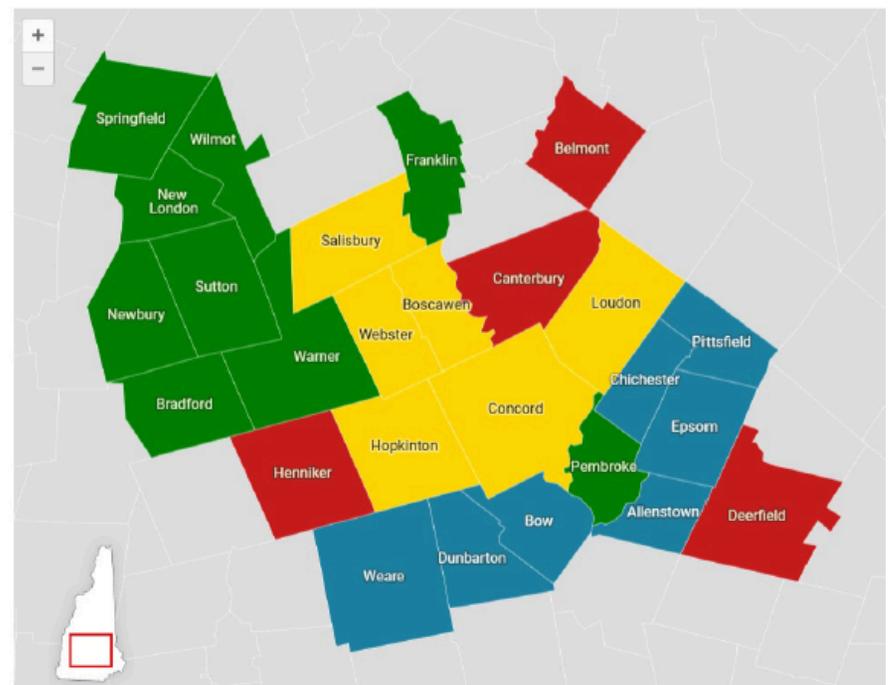
“The Great Re-Start”

- Following the Coronavirus pandemic:
 - Public perceptions of school quality continue to decline.¹
 - Homeschooling on the rise.²
 - Families are different consumers of education.
 - States (including NH) are increasingly pursuing charters, innovation schools/zones, vouchers, and other options for families.³
- It is time to think -- and talk -- differently about our public school systems: **ALL of THEM.**

Is your school district adopting open enrollment?

Last Updated: January 30, 2026

- Open enrollment policy adopted
- Warrant article added to town meeting ballot
- Undecided
- Not adopting



District	Entering Students Maximum	Exiting Students Maximum
Allenstown	Elementary School: 25	0
Chichester	Elementary School: 25	0
Epsom	Elementary School: 5	0
Franklin	Grades 5-12: 5 students per grade	0
John Stark	High School: 1%	0
Kearsarge	High School: 30	0
Pembroke	Elementary School: 40; Middle School: 80; High School: 204	0
Pittsfield	unlimited	0
Weare	Elementary School: 1%; Middle School: 1%	0

TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF) COMING TO A TOWN NEAR YOU?

by
Julie Smith

Warrant Article 15 in Epsom is asking the voters if TIFs should be allowed. It's important to know what they are. Are TIFs being overused, misused, and abused to quietly implement agendas that the local population does not embrace?

In January a presentation of TIF by the executive director of the Central NH Regional Planning Commission, Mr Tardiff, kept using the words "prime the pump" (for economic activity). His credentials are not CPA, tax attorney, or even an Epsom resident. NH has 9 of such planning commissions. They're unelected bodies that for one, control the flow of HUD money, using terms from Agenda 21/2030 and red flag words like SUSTAINABLE frequently.

Existing since the 50s, TIFs have a trail of failure to meet goals (on paper) and expectations (of voters). Creating a TIF is a multi-stage project. There are plenty of opportunities for things to go wrong. Thomas Sowell quipped, "It's easy to be wrong and persist in being wrong when the costs of being wrong are paid by others."

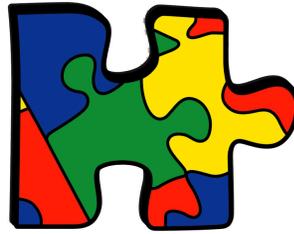
If the warrant article passes, the next step is defining the territory that will become a TIF district. (Nashua has more than one, and Chicago has between 120 and 130). The floodgates would be open for multi-tiered special treatment.

The local voters' goals are NOT the same as the NRPC's goals. Suppose undesirable businesses come to town because of a TIF, and there's no lawful way to get rid of them? You can't just go back and "un-TIF" all those parcels because bad decisions were made a few years earlier.

Several large businesses came to the Epsom circle in recent years, the liquor store and the Common Man being a few examples. They came to town without TIFs coaxing them.

Don't be like Nashua.

If TIFs are allowed in any community, transparency gets lost, and the Trojan horse is loaded with many of the ills of Nashua City Hall, like secrecy and confusion by design. **Just say NO** on March 10.



UNDERSTANDING PUZZLING PHRASES IN WARRANTS AND ARTICLES

BY
REP. DAN MCGUIRE

Frequently warrant articles will include a statement like this:
"Shall the district vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000 for ..., with such amount to be funded from the unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from additional taxation."

What does that mean?

How can we spend money without affecting taxes? Unspent moneys at the end of a budget year, whether for a municipality or a school district are known as "unassigned fund balances". These funds may be used to offset property taxes for the next year and / or can be saved for future use. Municipalities and school districts can also allocate, via the usual warrant process, a contingency fund to be used through the year for unanticipated expenses. School districts cannot keep more than 5% of their budget in unassigned fund balance, the rest must be applied to lowering taxes the following year. Municipalities have no limit on the size of their unassigned fund balance.

In this case, because money is being spent from savings, **there is no tax increase THIS YEAR.** However, since there is less savings, more taxes will have to be paid in the future. Alternatively, instead of spending the \$20,000 this way, the selectmen or school board could have used it to lower this year's tax rate, but they chose not to.

Voters should also be on the lookout for continuing expenses. Suppose the money is used to hire someone, even for part of the year. Even though there is no extra tax this year, that employee will still work next year. From now on their pay will be part of both the operating and default budgets. Voting for these articles appears to be free, but it is extremely costly in the long run.

I am a resident of Epsom who values small-town living, responsible government, and community involvement. I was drawn to Epsom because of its strong sense of independence, rural character, and the expectation that local decisions are made by neighbors, not distant mandates.

I moved here to raise my children in a safe, close-knit community where families are supported and neighbors look out for one another. I chose to stay because it is a town where people genuinely care about their community and want to protect it for future generations.

I spent the last 13 years serving in the United States Navy as a Logistics Specialist. During that time, I was responsible for managing a budget worth millions of dollars, overseeing critical resources, and ensuring transparency, efficiency, and accountability in every decision. This experience taught me the importance of fiscal discipline, careful planning, and long-term accountability, skills I now bring to town government.

I am motivated to run for the Budget Committee and Planning Board because both play a critical role in how Epsom grows and how taxpayer dollars are spent. Sound planning and responsible budgeting go hand in hand, and careful oversight and common-sense decision-making are essential to maintaining the quality of life we value while keeping taxes under control.

I chose to run for both committees because Planning Board decisions often carry long-term financial consequences. **Serving on both allows me to better understand how growth, zoning, & development affect the town budget, infrastructure, & residents.**

A key issue I would like to address is taxpayer fairness. Decisions made today, through budgeting or planning, should not shift long-term financial burdens onto residents. It is important to evaluate future costs, limit unnecessary debt, and prioritize essential services. My goal is to ensure that those who already live in Epsom can continue to do so without facing rising taxes or unsustainable costs. Thoughtful planning and conservative budgeting are critical to keeping Epsom affordable and fiscally stable for current and future residents..

Budget Committee Member
Vote for not more than 1
for 2 YEARS

★ Vanessa Poulin ●

Planning Board Member
Vote for up to 2; Two will be elected
for 3 YEARS

Robert McKechnie ○

★ Vanessa Poulin ●

WHO IS
Vanessa Poulin?



WHY SCHOOL CHOICE

During the COVID years, parents gained an unprecedented window into their children's education, and many realized that their child was not failing school. The system simply was not working for them.

School choice allows parents to act on that insight. Families can consider district and charter schools, or from among private schools, homeschooling, and hybrid models. Choosing the path that best meets their child's needs offers flexibility that does not replace public education, which remains vital for many families. Instead, it strengthens the broader education landscape by recognizing that students are different, and so are the environments where they thrive.

Choice matters because childhood does not pause while systems slowly change. Students who are struggling today cannot wait years for reforms. School choice provides immediate options when children need them most.

Across New Hampshire, families are finding more personalized instruction, safer school communities, and places where their children feel understood. These decisions are thoughtful and deeply personal, rooted in each child's academic, emotional, and social well-being.

Educational freedom also advances fairness. Families with financial means have always had options. School choice extends that opportunity to working families, ensuring access is not determined by income or ZIP code.

At its core, school choice honors parents' judgment and children's individuality. When families can choose learning environments that truly fit, students grow with confidence, curiosity, and purpose.

Our entire community is stronger for it.

New Hampshire families are facing a simple reality: not every child thrives in the same educational setting, & many families need options when the traditional model does not fit their child's learning needs.

Education Freedom Accounts (EFAs) exist to meet that reality. Today, more than 10,500 students across New Hampshire are learning in environments chosen by their families because those settings better reflect how they learn best.

EFAs allow parents to direct the same state education funding every child is already entitled to toward approved educational expenses such as tuition, tutoring, special education services, homeschool curriculum, and other learning supports. Instead of being limited to a single assigned option, families can build education plans tailored to their child's strengths, challenges, and interests.

The impact is real. Families describe children who once struggled with anxiety, unmet learning needs, or disengagement now thriving. Students gain confidence, rediscover a love of learning, and make academic progress in supportive, responsive settings.

EFAs also reflect strong fiscal stewardship. On average, an Education Freedom Account costs the state about \$5,000 per student, compared to more than \$21,000 in district public schools.



Serving 10,500 students through EFAs costs roughly \$52 million. Educating the same students in district schools would cost about \$263 million, generating more than \$200 million in net savings

....while maintaining educational opportunity. Even at this EFAs scale, represent less than 5 percent of statewide K-12 spending.



At the local level, districts retain all locally raised property tax dollars when a student uses an EFA, increasing per-pupil resources for students who remain. EFA families also continue paying full property taxes & often cover additional out-of-pocket costs, effectively investing twice in their town.

Accountability is central to the program. Every dollar is tracked, documented, & audited. Families reapply annually and submit receipts for approved expenses. National organizations, including EdChoice, have recognized New Hampshire's program for effective implementation, and the administering nonprofit, Children's Scholarship Fund New Hampshire, maintains a 4-Star Charity Navigator rating, with 92 cents of every dollar going directly to students and families.

Education Freedom Accounts are not about dismantling public education or favoring one model over another. They recognize that children are different, families know their needs best, and public systems work best when they can adapt.

SO YES!

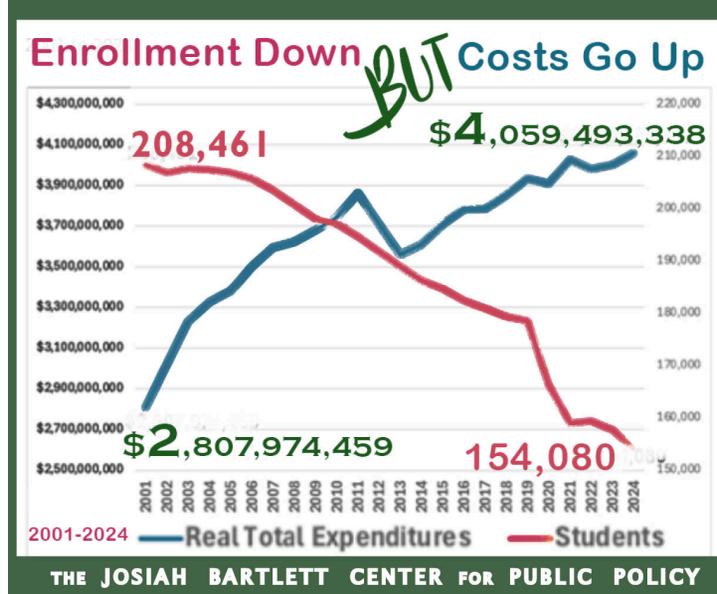
High School Closing Study should look at Charter Conversions

Charter schools are public schools, open to all students, but they operate with greater independence than traditional district schools. In New Hampshire, where charter schools have existed for more than two decades, the idea of converting an existing district school—rather than starting a new one from scratch—could gain attention as towns grapple with rising costs, shifting enrollment, and calls for educational innovation. (See graph at right)

One of the strongest arguments in favor of conversion is local flexibility. As charter schools, converted schools gain greater control over curriculum, scheduling, staffing, and budgeting. This autonomy allows educators to tailor programs to student needs without being bound by district-wide policies from expensive SAU's that may not fit a particular school's mission or community. For schools that already have a distinct educational philosophy—such as classical education, STEM focus, or alternative learning models—charter status can help preserve and strengthen that identity.

Supporters also point to innovation and responsiveness. Charter schools can adapt more quickly when something isn't working, pilot new instructional approaches, and adjust staffing models without navigating multiple layers of bureaucracy. In an era when education needs are changing rapidly, this agility is seen as a practical advantage rather than an ideological one.

Governance is another key factor. Charter schools are overseen by independent, largely volunteer boards focused solely on the success of that school. Advocates argue this leads to clearer accountability and decision-making driven by student outcomes rather than broader SAU politics. Unlike



traditional schools, charters must periodically renew their authorization by demonstrating academic and operational success—creating a level of account-ability that does not always exist in the district system.

Financial considerations also play a role. New Hampshire charter schools often operate at a lower per-pupil cost than district schools, in part due to leaner administrative structures. For taxpayers, this can mean a high-quality public education option that places less pressure on local property taxes—an important consideration in communities facing budget constraints.

Parental engagement is frequently cited as another benefit. Because charter schools are schools of choice, families actively opt in. That voluntary commitment often translates into higher levels of involvement, stronger school culture, and clearer expectations between families and educators.

Converting a district school to a charter changes its relationship with the local school board and alters funding mechanisms. Staff transitions, governance responsibilities, and community adjustment can present real challenges. These trade-offs deserve serious discussion and careful planning.

For many communities, charter conversion is not about abandoning public education—it is

about re-imagining it.

In New Hampshire, charter schools are public, tuition-free, and accountable to state standards. Conversion offers a way to preserve valued schools, protect distinctive programs, and give educators and families more say in how education is delivered.

by Rep. Clayton Wood

Co-founder
Benjamin Franklin Academy, Loudon, NH
Serving as Board President

Article 24=bad idea.

Article 24 - To see if the town will vote to transition to a Budget ADVISORY Committee from an OFFICIAL Budget Committee for the review & recommendation of the Town & School Budgets. (inserted by citizens petition)

If Article 24 passes, the Official Budget Committee disappears and all you might get in return is an advisory committee—but only if the selectmen choose to create one.

An advisory committee has no real authority. It can only make suggestions, essentially saying, "Please don't spend that much." The selectmen can ignore it.

And remember: the selectmen—not the voters—would decide everything about an advisory committee, including:

- Whether it even exists
- How many members it has
- How long the terms are
- Whether members are appointed by them, or elected by voters

Under SB2, an advisory committee "might" be allowed to place recommendations on the warrant & ballot, but that's about the extent of its power.

By contrast, an Official Budget Committee is established under RSA 32:1 specifically "to assist its voters in the prudent appropriation of public funds." It sets the budgets for both the town and the school district. That authority creates a healthy separation of powers:

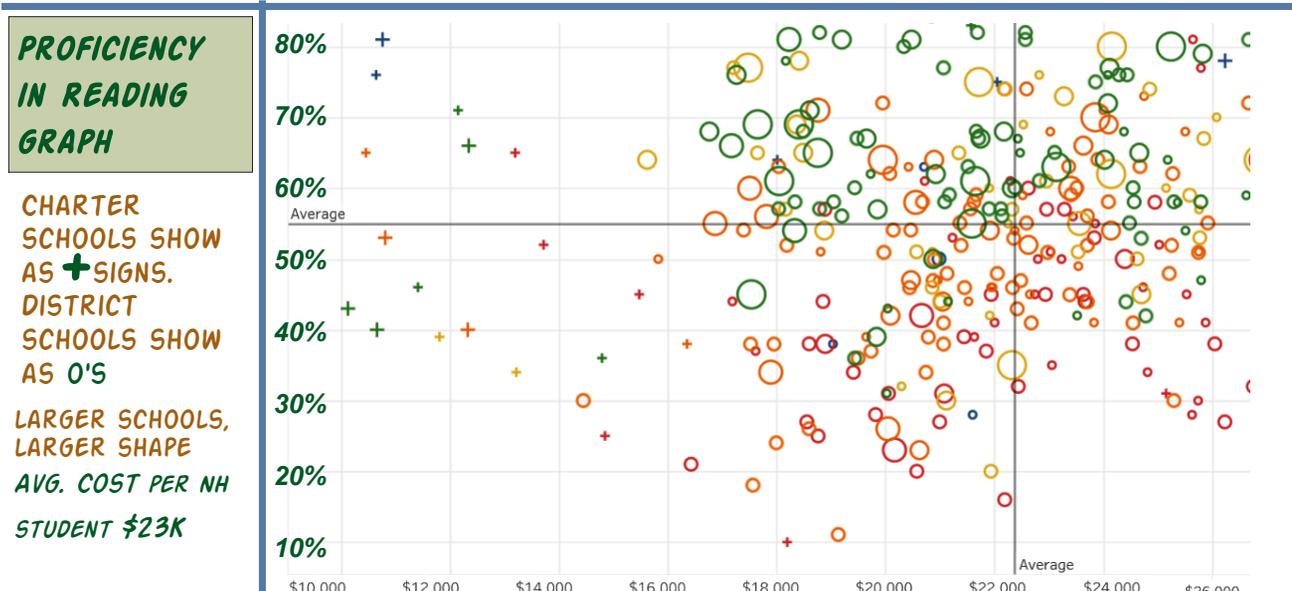
- The Official Budget Committee controls appropriation
- The Selectmen and School Board control spending

This balance is intentional. It provides checks and accountability that would be lost if Article 24 passes..

ERIC PAUER

Pres. School District Governance Assoc of NH

ONE THING SEEMS CLEAR. YOU CAN GET SIMILAR RESULTS FOR A LOT LESS MONEY



OF THE 8 AMENDMENTS ON THE PEMBROKE BALLOT, 5/8THS FALL INTO THE HOUSEKEEPING & MANDATES CATEGORIES DEFINED HERE. WE WILL SHOW THE REMAINING 3 BELOW, GIVING YOU A HEADS UP ON THOSE.



HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS These items have no effect on the interpretation or meaning of the Zoning. They propose to correct errors or clarify existing language.



STATE MANDATES These items are necessitated by changes to State law that affect local zoning. If the amendment passes, then the town complies with State law. If the amendment fails, the local ordinance becomes unenforceable and State law will override local zoning regardless.



SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES These items are proposed by the Planning Board and change the meaning of the town zoning. They change language to create new provisions or amend existing provisions in a way that changes what is allowed or disallowed, or how processes and procedures are carried out.

#5 ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE ADOPTION OF AMENDMENT #5, AS PROPOSED BY THE PLANNING BOARD, FOR THE PEMBROKE ZONING ORDINANCE TO AMEND §143-18.1 ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS, TO REQUIRE THAT EITHER THE PRINCIPAL OR THE ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT BE OCCUPIED BY THE PROPERTY OWNER.

SUMMARY:

THE TOWN CURRENTLY DOES NOT REGULATE WHETHER A SINGLE-FAMILY HOME WITH AN ADU MUST BE OCCUPIED BY THE PROPERTY OWNER -EITHER THE ADU OR THE MAIN HOUSE. THERE IS NO EXISTING OWNER OCCUPANCY REQUIREMENT. IF THIS AMENDMENT PASSES, IT WOULD REQUIRE THE PROPERTY OWNER LIVES IN EITHER THE MAIN / PRINCIPAL HOUSE OR THE ADU.

#7 ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE ADOPTION OF AMENDMENT #7, AS PROPOSED BY THE PLANNING BOARD, FOR THE PEMBROKE ZONING ORDINANCE TO AMEND §143-8 DEFINITIONS, TO ADD A DEFINITION OF PFAS (PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES); AND TO AMEND §143-19 TABLE OF USE REGULATIONS, TO PROHIBIT INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES THAT PRODUCE OR PROCESS PFAS, OR THAT USE PFAS COMPOUNDS IN MANUFACTURING, WHICH PRESENT A RISK OF RELEASE AND GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION IN ALL ZONING DISTRICTS; AND FURTHER TO AMEND §143-68 AQUIFER CONSERVATION (AC) DISTRICT, BY PROHIBITING THE USE OF FIREFIGHTING FOAMS OTHER THAN FOR EMERGENCY FIREFIGHTING RESPONSE, AND PERMITTING INDUSTRIAL USES THAT CONTROL THE POTENTIAL RELEASE OF PFAS BY A SPECIAL USE PERMIT.

SUMMARY:

THE PURPOSE OF THIS AMENDMENT IS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF PFAS FOREVER CHEMICALS FROM ENTERING THE AQUIFER. LAST YEAR, NHDES PUBLISHED A MODEL GROUNDWATER ORDINANCE ADDRESSING PFAS. NH MUNICIPALITIES WERE ENCOURAGED TO ADOPT THE CHANGES. THIS PROPOSAL INCORPORATES THE GUIDELINES OF THE NHDES MODEL INTO THE TOWN'S EXISTING AQUIFER CONSERVATION DISTRICT. THE GOAL IS TO CONTINUE TO ALLOW COMMERCIAL AND LIGHT INDUSTRIAL USES, WHILE ENSURING THAT PROPER REVIEW, INSPECTIONS, AND PREVENTATIVE MEASURES ARE TAKEN TO PROTECT THE TOWN'S GROUNDWATER.

#8 ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE ADOPTION OF AMENDMENT #8, AS PROPOSED BY THE PLANNING BOARD, FOR THE PEMBROKE ZONING ORDINANCE TO AMEND §143-72 WETLANDS PROTECTION DISTRICT, TO ELIMINATE THE NO-DISTURB BUFFERS AROUND WETLANDS AND VERNAL POOLS, AND INSTEAD REGULATE THOSE BUFFERS IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE JURISDICTIONAL WETLAND AREA THROUGH A SPECIAL USE PERMIT, AND ALSO TO ADD A REFERENCE TO THE SPECIAL USE PERMIT CRITERIA OF ARTICLE 18.

SUMMARY:

THE PURPOSE OF THIS AMENDMENT IS TO ALIGN THE LANGUAGE OF THE ORDINANCE WITH THE CURRENT PROCEDURE FOR REVIEWING WETLAND & WETLAND BUFFER IMPACTS. A CHANGE TO THE ZONING IN 2020 UNINTENTIONALLY RESULTED IN CONFLICTING LANGUAGE IN THE ORDINANCE. THIS PROPOSAL RESOLVES THE CONFLICT (PROTECTING THE TOWN FROM POTENTIAL LEGAL CHALLENGES) AND CHANGES THE WORDING TO REFLECT THE EXISTING PERMITTING PROCESS. BY THIS AMENDMENT, THE REVIEW AND PERMITTING OF WETLANDS & WETLANDS BUFFERS REMAINS THE SAME, BUT THE LANGUAGE IS CLARIFIED

A Math vs Reading Mystery at Pembroke Academy



Why does PA score

relatively high

in **READING**

while scoring

at the

bottom

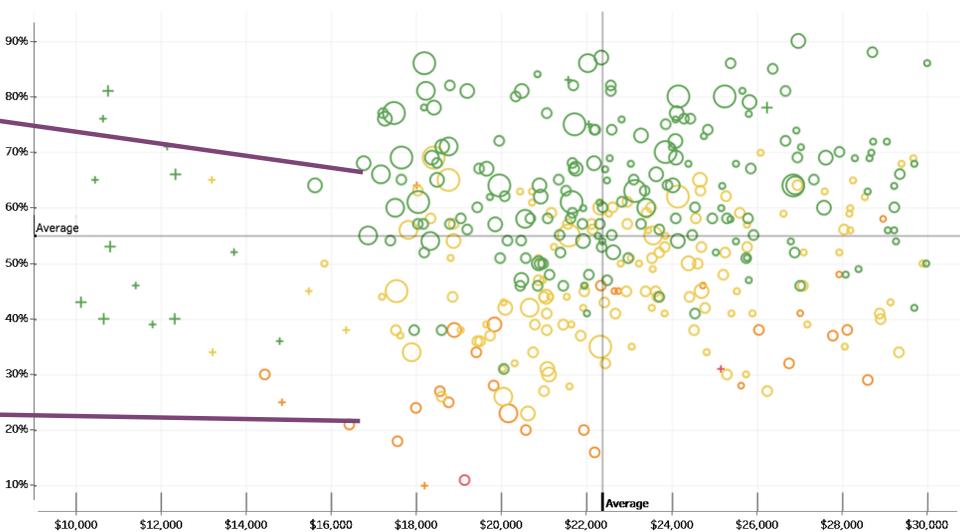
in

MATH?

STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIO IS 11 TO 1

Grade Span: 09-12
School Level: High
Total School Enrollment: 761
Charter (Y/N): No
Per Pupil Spending: \$17,169
% Economically Disadvantaged: 23%
% Students w/Disabilities: 17%
Proficient & above in reading 66%
Proficient & Above in Math 23%

Total School Performance
Reading All Students
New Hampshire FY23-24 Expenditure vs SY24-25 All Grades Proficiency



FIND THESE HIGHLY INFORMATIVE INTERACTIVE GRAPHS ON EDUNOMICSLAB.ORG

NEW HAMPSHIRE TAKING OUR ISLAND BACK

CONCORD, NH- HOUSE DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER JOE SWEENEY (R-SALEM) AND STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOE BARTON (R-LITTLETON) RELEASED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AFTER THE HOUSE PASSED HR 45. HR 45 ASSERTS NEW HAMPSHIRE'S RIGHTFUL OWNERSHIP OVER THE PISCATAQUA RIVER AND PORTSMOUTH HARBOR.

IT IS TIME TO TAKE OUR ISLAND BACK

THE BORDER BETWEEN NEW HAMPSHIRE AND MAINE WAS CLEARLY ESTABLISHED IN 1761, WITH THE ISLANDS IN PORTSMOUTH HARBOR BELONGING TO NEW HAMPSHIRE. WE THANK REPRESENTATIVE BARTON AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE HOUSE FOR VOTING TO TAKE OUR ISLAND BACK, DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER SWEENEY SAID. REPRESENTATIVE BARTON ADDED, "THE HARD WORKING MEN AND WOMEN OF NEW HAMPSHIRE'S PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD SHOULD NOT BE FORCED TO PAY A MAINE INCOME TAX. I LOOK FORWARD TO ONE DAY WELCOMING THOSE INDUSTRIOUS MEN AND WOMEN TO THE LIVE FREE OR DIE STATE." TO ANYONE WHO STILL QUESTIONS IF THOSE ISLANDS BELONG TO NEW HAMPSHIRE,..... REMEMBER: **BADGER'S ISLAND HAS BEEN ON OUR STATE FLAG FOR LONGER THAN MAINE HAS BEEN A STATE.**



Men must be governed by God or they will be ruled by tyrants.
William Penn



New Hampshire's State Legislature is Unique

NH has the largest state legislature by almost 2 to 1. We have 400 reps. Each Rep. serves about 3K constituents. 2nd biggest is Pennsylvania with 204. Each Rep. serves about 64K constituents NH pays: \$100 per year (plus mileage) compensation. Its a hobby, not a job. We get more retirees with lots of life experience. Since many heads are better than a few, we get more intelligence applied to problems.

New Hampshire can well make the claim of having the best governing body in the world. *Rep. Dan McGuire*



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