WARNING

TOWN OF MANCHESTER ANNUAL TOWN MEETING (2026)

The legal voters of the Town of Manchester are hereby warned and notified that the Town will hold an annual meeting that will commence at the Manchester Elementary-Middle School gymnasium (80 Memorial Ave.), Manchester Center, Vermont 05255) on Saturday February 28, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. to transact any business not involving Australian ballot voting. The meeting will then adjourn until Tuesday, March 3, 2026, on which date the polls will open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.at the Manchester Town Offices (40 Jeff Williams Way) to vote by Australian ballot.

Town of Manchester Floor Meeting:

ARTICLE 1. To present awards, make acknowledgements, and to hear reports from our legislative delegation.

ARTICLE 2. Shall the Town vote to appropriate $8,248,285 to defray the operating and capital expenses of the Town for the ensuing year, of which $5,341,060 shall be raised by property taxes and $2,907,225 by non-property tax revenues (including $1,525,000 in local option tax revenues); provided, that in the event that local option revenues are less than $1,525,000, funds from the Property Tax Relief Reserve Fund may be used to offset the shortfall in local option revenues and that any amount in excess of $1,525,000 shall be transferred into the Property Tax Relief Reserve Fund?

ARTICLE 3. Shall the Town vote to charge the maximum interest and penalty allowed by law on overdue unpaid real property taxes and provide no discount for early payment (current law allows interest of 1% per month or a portion thereof for the first three months and 1.5% per month thereafter. A penalty of 8% is allowed on the unpaid balance after the second installment), with payments delivered in person at Town Hall, electronically, or by U.S. Mail (must be postmarked by the due date), due in two installments, as follows:

1st Installment: Friday, September 4, 2026, at 4:30PM: 45% of town taxes and 60% of school taxes 2nd Installment: Friday, February 5, 2027, at 4:30PM: 55% of town taxes and 40% of school taxes?

ARTICLE 4. Shall the Town vote to exempt from taxation, for a period not to exceed five (5) years, the real estate of the VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region, Inc located at 5468 Main Street in the Town of Manchester?

ARTICLE 5. Shall the Town vote to exempt from taxation, for a period of five (5) years, the real estate of Adoniram Lodge No. 42 Free and Accepted Masons/Adoniram Building Association (aka, the Masonic Lodge) located at 138 Spruce Street in the Town of Manchester?

Articles 6 through 15 are under the provisions of 24 V.S.A. § 2691 and§ 2692. Shall the Town vote to appropriate general funds to social service agencies?

ARTICLE 6. To appropriate $2,500 to the Tutorial Center?

ARTICLE 7. To appropriate $2,000 to Center for Restorative Justice?

ARTICLE 8. To appropriate $1,850 to Project Against Violent Encounters?

ARTICLE 9. To appropriate $1,811 to BROC Community Action in Southwestern Vermont?

ARTICLE 10. To appropriate $1,500 to Green Mountain Retired Senior Volunteer Program?

ARTICLE 11. To appropriate $1,500 to Neighbor to Neighbor?

ARTICLE 12. To appropriate $1,000 to The Collaborative?

ARTICLE 13. To appropriate $500 to Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired?

ARTICLE 14. To appropriate $420 to Vermont Center for Independent Living?

ARTICLE 15. To transact any other business appropriate to come before Town Meeting.

Voting by Australian ballot on March 3, 2026:

ARTICLE 16. Shall the Town of Manchester vote to raise, appropriate and expense the sum of $5,000 for the support of Bennington County Habitat for Humanity to provide services to the residents of the Town?

ARTICLE 17. Shall the Town appropriate $4,000 for the support of the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging?

ARTICLE 18. Shall the Town appropriate $20,000 for the support of VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region?

ARTICLE 19. Shall the Town appropriate $75,000 for the support of the Northshire Day School?

ARTICLE 20. To elect Town Officers for the ensuing year.

Warning adopted by the Selectboard on January 23, 2026

Ivan C. Beattie, Chair

Heidi G. Chamberlain, Vice-Chair

Laurie A. Kunz, Clerk

Gregory T. Cutler

Jonathan W. West

Manchester, VT Town Clerk's Office
01/23 20 26 at
8 o'clock 15 minutes A M
Book 15 on Page 912 of
Town records.
Attest: Cynthia J. Shelden MMC/CVC
Town Clerk