



Vote!

Town/School Election
Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Bedford High School
 7:00AM - 7:00PM

The Bedford Republican Committee Voters Guide 2026

Bedford Voters:

Following information and recommendations are in regard to Town/School District Ballot voting on March 10, 2026. As always, use your judgment based on your own research and your knowledge of the issues. Your vote counts! Uncontested articles are not shown.

TOWN	
<p>Article 1. Election of Town Officers. Town Council. 3 Seats: One is 2-year term; Two are 3-year terms. 2-year term: John Bator is a long-term resident of Bedford. 30 years executive experience & retired CFO. John recognizes the importance of managing growth in light of evolving demographics. He wants to ensure taxes are assessed fairly and equitably between residents and businesses. John knows capital and operating budgeting, short- and long-range planning, is an adept problem-solver and will always focus on maximizing value for taxes. 3-year term: Laura Fahey is a long-term resident of Bedford. Laura is a relationship builder. She works as a QA Analyst and adjunct professor. She will bring a data driven, fiscally disciplined approach to the table and is committed to thoughtful, transparent decision-making. 3-year term: Dave Gilbert has served on the Town Council in the past and is seeking a new term.</p>	<p><u>Vote Yes for:</u></p> <p>John Bator</p> <p>Laura Fahey</p> <p>Dave Gilbert</p>
<p>Article 2.1. Zoning Amendments Proposed by the Planning Board. Amendment 1. Brings the Bedford Zoning Ordinance into compliance with recent changes to NH State law.</p>	<p>Vote Yes</p>
<p>Articles 2.2 - Zoning Amendments Proposed by the Planning Board. Amendment 2. Brings the Bedford Zoning Ordinance into compliance with recent changes to NH State law.</p>	<p>Vote Yes</p>
<p>Article 2.3 - Zoning Amendments Proposed by the Planning Board. Amendment 3. Brings the Bedford Zoning Ordinance into compliance with recent changes to NH State law.</p>	<p>Vote Yes</p>
<p>Article 2.4 - Zoning Amendments Proposed by the Planning Board. Amendment 4 - General Residential Zone Amendment. Intended to better align dimensional standards with the existing smaller lot sizes and land use patterns within the district.</p>	<p>Vote Yes</p>
<p>Article 2.5 - Zoning Amendments Proposed by the Planning Board. Amendment 5 - Clarifies the measurement of a retaining wall and is consistent with the Building Code.</p>	<p>Vote Yes</p>
<p>Article 2.6 - Zoning Amendments Proposed by the Planning Board. Amendment 6 - Amends Table of Uses to remove nursing homes and assisted living facilities as a permitted use in the Commercial (CO), Commercial-2 (CO-2) and Performance Zones (PZ).</p>	<p>Vote Yes</p>
<p>Article 2.7 - Zoning Amendments Proposed by the Planning Board. Amendment 7- Minor changes to the development and architectural standards for Cottage Court Housing.</p>	<p>Vote Yes</p>
<p>Article 2.8 - Zoning Amendments Proposed by the Planning Board. Amendment 8 - Amends the Historic District Ordinance to correct outdated references and remove language that is duplicated in the Historic District Regulations.</p>	<p>Vote Yes</p>
<p>Article 2.9 - Zoning Amendment Proposed by Citizens' Petition. Supported by Planning Board. Amendment 9 - This would remove two (2) residential properties located at the northwestern corner of the district, from the Historic District, from 320 Wallace Road to 324 Wallace Road. These newer homes were built after 2018. The Planning Board SUPPORTS Passage of this Amendment.</p>	<p>Vote Yes</p>
<p>Article 3. Collective Bargaining Agreement – Fire. This CBA reached between the Town Council and Bedford Professional Firefighters, is for calendar years 2026-2028. This includes raises and improvements in step compensation for Bedford's first responders and firemen. Attracting and retaining fire personnel is essential. This is an investment in those who show up when we most need them. The first year of this 3-year agreement has an estimated increase of \$395,742 and tax impact of \$0.06/\$1,000 (\$42 on a \$700k house).</p>	<p>Vote Yes</p>
<p>Article 4. Conditional article for Article 3. Shall the Town, if Article 3 is defeated, authorize the Town Council to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 3 cost items only?</p>	<p>Vote Yes</p>



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TOWN	
<p>Article 5. Collective Bargaining Agreement – Police. This CBA reached between the Town Council and the Bedford Police Union is for calendar years 2026-2028. <i>Similar for fire personnel, attracting and retaining public safety personnel is essential. This is an investment in those who keep our community safe. The first year of this 3-year agreement has an estimated increase of \$231,511 and tax impact of \$0.04/\$1,000 (\$28 on a \$700k house).</i></p>	Vote Yes
<p>Article 6. Conditional article for Article 5. Shall the Town, if Article 5 is defeated, authorize the Town Council to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 5 cost items only?</p>	Vote Yes
<p>Article 7. 2026 Operating Budget. The proposed operating budget, not including special warrants and other appropriations voted separately, totals \$39,648,273. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$38,000,259, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. <i>If the proposed budget is passed, the estimated tax impact (decrease) would be \$0.21 from the 2025 rate of \$3.87/1,000 to \$3.66/1,000 assessed property value. (\$147 less on a \$700k house.) Last year, the Town Council worked to the \$38 million default. If this year's proposed budget does not pass, the \$1.6 mil reduction (to adhere to default) likely would be disruptive to services & potentially personnel.</i></p>	Vote Yes
<p>Article 8. Capital Reserve Fund – Projects and Equipment. The proposed budget of \$1,835,900 is significantly less than last year's of \$2.6 million. \$1,807,900 from new taxation, \$28,000 from Sewer fund. \$0.29/1,000 estimated tax impact. (\$203 on a \$700k house). <i>The tax impact is \$0.13/1,000 less than last year. The Town Council explored new ideas, being attentive to tax increase concerns, resulting in a more conservative approach to the Capital Improvement Plan.</i></p>	Vote Yes
<p>Article 9. Capital Reserve Fund – BCTV Equipment and Infrastructure Fund. New Capital Reserve Fund. The sum comes from BCTV Enterprise fund balance. No tax impact.</p>	Vote Yes
<p>Article 10. Discontinuing IT Software Licensing Capital Reserve. Vote is required to close the fund.</p>	Vote Yes
<p>Article 11. Citizen Petitioned Article. This request is to raise and appropriate \$800,000 for the purpose of reconstructing the Skateboard Park. Funding sources: 1) \$88,000 from existing private contributions, 2) \$234,000 existing recreation field improvement capital reserves, & 3) \$478,000 is from unassigned fund balance. No tax impact. <i>The skateboard park does need serious attention. At the same time, budgets are tight. 89% (\$712,000) of the funding to come from Town reserves and the unassigned fund balance, while 11% (\$88,000) is from private sources.</i></p>	Voter Choice
<p>Article 12. Keno Games. Shall we prohibit the operation of Keno games within the Town of Bedford? <i>94 NH municipalities currently offer Keno 603. Bedford has 45 potential Keno 603 retailers, including 26 restaurants/ bars/ taverns and 19 gas stations & grocery stores. (10 currently NH licensed lottery retailers.) All would need to apply for and be licensed by the state. Retailers receive commissions (8%) and reportedly increased foot traffic and ancillary revenues. All Keno 603 revenue supports NH education through the Education Trust Fund. A Keno 603 kiosk/monitor does not take much space in retailer's establishment. A "Yes" vote prohibits. A "No" vote allows. This looks to be an option that Bedford's potential retailers should have the choice to decide or not.</i></p>	Voter Choice
<p>Article 13. Games of Chance. Shall we prohibit the operation of games of chance within the Town of Bedford? <i>Games of chance include typical casino games (for example: poker, roulette, blackjack). There are 14 licensed Games of Chance facilities in 11 NH municipalities. Salem has an example with Chasers. There are various pros and cons to allowing these facilities. A "Yes" vote prohibits. A "No" vote allows.</i></p>	Voter Choice
SCHOOLS	
<p>Article 01. School Board. 3 Seats: One is 1-year term; Two are each 3-year terms and uncontested. 1-year term: Kevin Coventry is a parent of elementary children and coach for Bedford youth sports. Kevin is connected to the youth and parents of our community. He prioritizes fiscal responsibility, strong academics and the importance of our schools helping our children prepare for success as adults.</p>	Vote for Kevin Coventry
<p>Article 02. Negotiated Agreement with the Custodial and Maintenance Staff. This CBA between the BSD and the Bedford Educational Support Staff Association is for the 2026/27, 2027/28, and 2028/29 school years. For the first year of this 3-year agreement, the estimated cost of \$213,431 will have an estimated tax impact of \$0.03/1,000. <i>Reasonable compensation is needed for staff who help provide a safe and clean learning environment for our kids.</i></p>	Vote Yes
<p>Article 03. Conditional Article for Article 02. Shall the School District, if Article 02 is defeated, authorize the school board to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 02 cost items only?</p>	Vote Yes
<p>Article 04. Negotiated Agreement with the Instructional Teaching Assistants, Secretaries, Clerks, and Food Service staff. This CBA between the BSD and the Bedford Education Personnel Association is for the 2026/2027, 2027/2028, and 2028/2029 school years. For the first year of this 3-year agreement, the estimated cost of \$792,727 will have an estimated tax impact of \$0.11/1,000. <i>Reasonable compensation is needed for staff who help provide a welcome and supportive learning environment.</i></p>	Vote Yes
<p>Article 05 - Conditional Article for Article 04. Shall the School District, if Article 04 is defeated, authorize the school board to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 04 cost items only?</p>	Vote Yes
<p>Article 06. Operating Budget. The BSD proposed operating budget is \$97,809,732. Should this Article 06 be defeated, the operating budget shall be \$97,136,083, same as last year, with certain adjustments required, or the governing body may hold one special meeting to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. The estimated tax rate impact (increase) is \$0.79/1,000 if the article passes (\$553 on a \$700k house). The estimated tax rate impact is \$0.69/1,000 if the article does not pass (\$483 on a \$700k house.) <i>This is a significant ask of residents, considering student enrollments are down 12% since 2017/18 and schools represent 70% of our tax bills.</i></p>	Vote No