

**WARNING
FOR
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
2026**

Voting by Australian ballot is to be held on **Tuesday, March 3, 2026**, at the Hartford High School Gymnasium.

Budget Discussion/Candidates Night is to be held **Monday, February 23, 2026, at 7:00PM, at the Hartford High School Auditorium.**

The legal voters of the Town of Hartford are further notified that voter qualification, registration, and absentee voting relative to said Annual Town Meeting shall be as provided in the Town Charter and chapters 43, 51, and 55 of title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES WILL BE VOTED BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT ON TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026. POLLS OPEN AT 7:00AM AND CLOSE AT 7:00PM.

1. To elect the following Town Officers for the ensuing year: Town Treasurer for a three year term (one position); Selectboard Member for two years (two positions); Selectboard Member for three years (one position); West Hartford Library Trustee for remaining two years of a five-year term (one position); West Hartford Library Trustee for five year term (one position). (By Australian ballot)
2. Shall the Town authorize total fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$23,380,216.39 (plus any appropriations voted below) of which \$3,900,272.87 shall be raised by non-tax revenue, \$1,200,000 by Unassigned Fund balance transfer, \$1,100,000 by anticipated Local Option Sales Tax revenue and the balance by property tax revenue? (By Australian ballot)
3. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of Ninety-Eight Thousand and Ninety-Six Dollars (\$98,096) to be paid to **Advance Transit** for public transportation services? (By Australian ballot)
4. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be paid to **Junction Arts & Media (JAM)** for video recording of local government meetings? (By Australian ballot)
5. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500) to be paid to **Good Beginnings of the Upper Valley**, for organization of volunteers to assist families with new babies? (By Australian ballot)
6. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of Eight Hundred Dollars (\$800) to be paid to **Green Mountain Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)** in support of senior volunteer programs? (By Australian ballot)
7. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be paid to the **Hartford Community Coalition** for community support/education of mental health concerns, reduction of substance misuse, and the Take A Bite Out of Hunger community food program? (By Australian ballot)
8. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be paid to the **Hartford Historical Society** for collecting, conserving and displaying the Town's history? (By Australian ballot)
9. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars (\$9,995) to be paid to **Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS)** to help support outpatient, mental health, and substance abuse service? (By Australian ballot)

10. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Two Dollars (\$5,382) to be paid to **Public Health Council of the Upper Valley** for providing services to the residents of Hartford? (By Australian ballot)
11. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000) to be paid to **Senior Solutions** to serve older, and younger disabled, Vermonters with nutrition and wellness programs, application and enrollment assistance to, and coordination of, state and federal benefit programs, and Volunteer Visitor programs? (By Australian ballot)
12. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of Six Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$6,800) to **Tri-Valley Transit**, for providing transportation services? (By Australian ballot)
13. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of Nine Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$975) to be paid to **Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI)** in support of blind and visually impaired Vermonters? (By Australian ballot)
14. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of Eight Hundred Forty-Five Dollars (\$845) to be paid to **Vermont Center for Independent Living** in support of Vermonters with disabilities? (By Australian ballot)
15. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500) to be paid to **Windsor County Mentors** for youth mentoring services? (By Australian ballot)
16. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) to be paid to **Women's Information Service (WISE), Inc.** for ending gender-based violence? (By Australian ballot)
17. Appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be paid to **Special Needs Support Center** to provide services to the residents of the Town? (By Australian ballot)
18. Shall the Town appropriate the sum of Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000) to be paid to **The Family Place**, for programs for families with young children? (By Australian ballot)
19. Shall the Town authorize the expenditure of \$50,000 of Local Option Tax Revenue (already collected from Rooms, Meals and Alcohol taxes) toward the purchase of a fourth Dispatch Console to improve the Town's response to emergency calls? (By Australian ballot)
20. Shall the Town authorize the expenditure of \$55,000 of Local Option Tax Revenue (already collected from Rooms, Meals and Alcohol taxes) toward the purchase of the following items for the Department of Public Works: (a) a sidewalk snowplow (\$40,000) and (b) a clamshell bucket for the Town's backhoe (\$15,000)? (By Australian ballot)
21. Shall the Town authorize the expenditure of \$14,500 of Local Option Tax Revenue (already collected from Rooms, Meals and Alcohol taxes) toward the purchase and installation of a Mechanic's Storage Shed for the Hartford Fire and Police Departments? (By Australian ballot)
22. Shall the Town authorize the expenditure of \$50,000 of Local Option Tax Revenue (already collected from Rooms, Meals and Alcohol taxes) toward the resurfacing of playing courts at the Maxfield Sports Complex, to include relining for dedicated pickleball, tennis and basketball recreation sports? (By Australian ballot)

23. Shall the Town authorize the expenditure of \$38,000 of Local Option Tax Revenue (already collected from Rooms, Meals and Alcohol taxes) to make repairs to address life and safety-related issues at the Bugbee Senior Center building? (By Australian ballot)
24. Shall the Town authorize the expenditure of \$5,000 of Local Option Tax Revenue (already collected from Rooms, Meals and Alcohol taxes) toward the annual Town Parade, in commemoration of the Nation's 250th anniversary? (By Australian ballot)
25. Shall the Town authorize the transfer of \$137,500 of Local Option Tax Revenue (already collected from Rooms, Meals and Alcohol taxes) to the General Fund for the specific purpose of reducing property taxes? (By Australian ballot)
26. Shall general obligation bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed Six Million Three Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$6,355,000), subject to reduction by the application of federal and state grants-in-aid and reserve funds, be issued for the purpose of constructing public water main improvements on or around Hartford Avenue, Manning Drive, South Street, James Street, Horseshoe Avenue, Gillette Street, and Norwich Avenue, the estimated cost of such improvements being Six Million Three Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$6,355,000)? (By Australian ballot)
27. Shall general obligation bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000), subject to reduction by the application of federal and state grants-in-aid and reserve funds, be issued for the purpose of constructing public water main improvements on or around Nutt Lane, Latham Works Lane and Harrison Avenue, the estimated costs of such improvements being One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000)? (By Australian ballot)
28. Shall bonds or notes of the Town of Hartford in an amount not to exceed One Million One Hundred Thirty Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$1,130,400), subject to reduction from available state and/or federal grants-in-aid, appropriations and reserve funds, be issued for the purpose of financing Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District infrastructure improvements, more specifically:
 - (a) towards the improvement of public sidewalks, curbs, crosswalks, paving, road, parking, streetscape, landscaping, lighting, and drainage, on South Main, North Main, Gates, Currier, Church, Bridge, Pine and Maple Streets, the aggregate cost of such improvements estimated to be Three Million Five Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$3,548,880), and
 - (b) for the payment thereof pledge the credit of the Town, in particular the revenues generated from the Tax Increment Financing District? (By Australian ballot)

Voters are hereby notified that the above total includes up to One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) in related costs to be reimbursed by the Tax Increment Finance District, that the total amount of previously approved and incurred Tax Increment Financing District debt is \$10,773,710, and the total amount of previously approved related costs is up to \$200,000. The voters are hereby notified that if the increment received by the Town from any property tax source is insufficient to pay debt service on the indebtedness identified above, in any year for whatever reason, including a decrease in property value or repeal of a state property tax source, unless determined otherwise at the time of such repeal, the Town shall remain liable for such debt service for the term of such indebtedness.

29. Shall up to Two Million Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,800,000) of previously approved but unexpended Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District infrastructure bonds or notes authorized at the March 4, 2014, March 1, 2016, March 7, 2017, March 5, 2019, and March 3, 2020 meetings of the Town of Hartford be expended towards the financing of additional Tax Increment Finance District infrastructure improvements, specifically the improvement of public sidewalks, curbs, crosswalks, paving, road, parking, streetscape, landscaping, lighting, and drainage, on South Main, North Main, Gates, Currier, Church, Bridge, Pine and Maple Streets, the estimated cost there of being Three Million Five Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$3,548,880), which is the same project as described in Article 30? (By Australian ballot)

Voters are hereby notified that the above total includes up to Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) in related costs to be reimbursed by the Tax Increment Finance District that had previously been approved by Town of Harford voters and that the total amount of previously approved Tax Increment Financing District debt is \$10,773,710. The voters are hereby notified that if the increment received by the Town from any property tax source is insufficient to pay debt service on the indebtedness identified above, in any year for whatever reason, including a decrease in property value or repeal of a state property tax source, unless determined otherwise at the time of such repeal, the Town shall remain liable for such debt service for the term of such indebtedness.

30. Shall the voters of Hartford advise the Selectboard to adopt the following Pledge:
WE AFFIRM our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people and all people;
and
WE OPPOSE all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression; and
WE DECLARE ourselves an apartheid-free community and to that end,
WE PLEDGE to join others in working to end all support to Israel's apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation. (By Australian ballot)

Dated at Hartford, Vermont this 22nd day of January, 2026.
SELECTBOARD MEMBERS OF THE TOWN OF HARTFORD

Mary Erdei, Selectboard Chair

Mike Hoyt, Selectboard Vice-Chair

Ashley Andreas, Selectboard Clerk

Erik Krauss, Selectboard Member

Ida Griesemer, Selectboard Member

Miranda Dupre, Selectboard Member

Tim Fariel, Selectboard Member