

COPY

OFFICIAL BALLOT
TOWN OF LOWELL, MAINE
JUNE 25, 2024

Instructions to the voter

Vote by making cross (X) or a check (v) in the square to the left of your choice. Follow directions as to the number of Articles to be marked name on the line provided and check the box.

Yes No **Referendum Article 1:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select board to complete the establishment of and entry into the Central Maine Highlands Fire and EMS District #1 (the "District"), a regional fire district under Title 30-A, Chapter 164 of the Maine Revised Statutes with the towns of Enfield, Maxfield, Howland, Burlington, Passadumkeag and Edinburg, as well as Seboeis Plantation and Penobscot County and such other municipalities and municipal entities as the named municipalities may deem appropriate?

Yes No **Article 2. Lowell Comprehensive Plan:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the (Lowell) Comprehensive Plan, as approved by the Maine State Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, Bureau of Resource Information & Land Use Planning (DACF). This is the first/original documented Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Lowell. Narrative: The Comprehensive Plan ("Comp Plan") was written by the town's Planning Board, as supported by the Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EMDC) and is based directly upon Lowell taxpayer input compiled from a community-wide survey conducted March through October of 2022. The draft plan was then subject to a public review and comment period from 1/9/24 through 2/9/24. The Maine State DACF reviewed and approved the plan on 3/21/24, having found the plan to be fully compliant with all State standards. Adoption of the Comprehensive Plan will provide Lowell's elected and appointed municipal leaders with a clear vision to guide them in their decisions, action, and budgetary forecasting, thus supporting the future stability and measured development of the Town, as based upon the direct input of the town's legislative body. Additionally, adoption of the plan will make the Town eligible for a wider spectrum of grant opportunities, from private entities as well as higher tier governmental organizations which require such plans to exist, prior to application. It is intended that the plan will be reviewed for potential updates or adjustments, at minimum every 10 years after initial adoption.

The Board of Selectmen recommends adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, as written.

Yes No **Article 3. Lowell Land Use Ordinance:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the (Lowell) Land Use Ordinance, as revised (last revision 2002).

Narrative: The Land Use Ordinance has been revised to include permissions for the construction of Additional Dwelling Units (ADU's), in accordance with 30-A MRSA, Section 4364-B. All building permit applications filed for ADU's shall be reviewed by the Code Enforcement Officer for compliance with Maine statute, prior to issuance. No other substantive updates are included in this revision.

The Board of Selectmen recommends adoption of the Land Use Ordinance, as revised.

Yes No **Article 4. Lowell Shoreland Zoning Ordinance:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the (Lowell) Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, as updated (last update 2021).

Narrative: The Shoreland Zoning Ordinance has been updated to include language promulgated by recently published Maine State guidance (Board of Environmental Protection/BEP). These updates have been reviewed by the members of the Town Planning Board and the Town Code Enforcement Officer; no significant points of concern were identified.

The Board of Selectmen recommends adoption of the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, as updated.

Yes No **Article 5. Lowell Commercial and Residential Solar Energy Systems Ordinance:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the (Lowell) Commercial and Residential Solar Energy Systems Ordinance (also to be known by shorter title as the Lowell Solar Ordinance).

Narrative: The Lowell Solar Ordinance is based on a template provided by a neighboring Town which recently adopted a similar ordinance and has been tailored by the Lowell Board of Selectmen and the Lowell Planning Board to factor for Lowell-specific characteristics and interests. Adoption of the Solar Ordinance does NOT prohibit the installation of solar energy systems within the confines of Lowell. The primary intent of the ordinance is to protect the long-term interests of Lowell, over the entire lifecycle of solar energy system installations, by ensuring installer/owner compliance from "cradle to grave", be it either commercial or residential. The key principles of this ordinance are two-fold; 1. Any solar energy systems installed in Lowell shall comply with all aspects of the proposed ordinance, as well as all applicable State and Federal statutes associated with the technology, and 2. The owners of such systems are solely responsible for all efforts and costs associated with the proper and environmentally regulated disposal of solar energy systems/components at the end of useful technological life. The Burlington-Lowell Transfer station will not accept any components associated with solar energy systems, be they commercial or residential.

The Board of Selectmen recommends adoption of the Lowell Solar Ordinance, as written.

Yes No **Article 6: Repeal of All Lowell Municipal Fire Department Ordinance(s) and Policies:** To see if the Town will vote to repeal and archive the original 2010 Fire Department Ordinance and the 2015 Amended Lowell Fire and Rescue Department Ordinance.

Narrative: The Lowell Planning Board has engaged a long-term effort to review, update and evaluate all existing ordinances for the town of Lowell. Resultant to Town vote on November 10, 2022, the Lowell Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) was dissolved, and our Town's fire and EMS coverage is now addressed by contract with a nearby local provider. The Planning Board has concluded that the 2010 and 2015 ordinances, and any/all

derivative policies of the previous VFD are no longer necessary and should be repealed and archived.

The Board of Selectmen recommends the repeal and archive of all ordinances and policies associated with the now dissolved Lowell Fire Department.

Yes

No

Article 7. Municipal Reimbursement/Medical Care of Stray or Companion Animals: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2000 for the establishment of a Medical Care of Stray or Companion Animals

The board of Selectmen recommends.

TOWN OF LOWELL, MAINE

A TRUE COPY:



LISA WOODWARD, CLERK