

**Board of Selectmen Candidates (2 seats open)**

**Ross McLeod (incumbent) Yes**

**Roger Hohenberger (incumbent) Yes**

Both incumbent candidates have served our town well and deserve our support.

**TOWN ARTICLE #3, Citizen Petition #1 (Eliminate Housing for Older Persons)**

Recommend: **The WTC strongly recommends voting NO**

If this article passes, our senior citizens lose as well as our community for multiple reasons... but we'll just address the tax impact.

It is beneficial for our community to encourage 55+ housing because those homes require only \$0.23 of municipal support services (school, fire, police...) for every tax dollar collected – and therefore each 55+ property generates a substantial tax surplus that is used to subsidize/offset the tax deficit that is produced by residential properties. 55+ housing is a win-win for seniors and for our community.

Commercial properties require only \$0.27 of municipal support services for every tax dollar collected – and therefore each commercial property generates a tax surplus that is used to subsidize/offset the tax deficit that is produced by residential properties.

Residential properties drain \$1.08 of municipal services for every tax dollar collected – therefore generating a deficit for every residential property. This is why it is important to encourage 55+ housing and commercial properties (both of which produce surplus tax revenues).

The above data is available on the town website: <http://windhamnh.gov/documentcenter/view/29>

**TOWN ARTICLE #3, Citizen Petition #2 (Eliminate Housing for Older Persons in Residence A)**

Recommend: **The WTC strongly recommends voting NO**

If this article passes, our senior citizens lose as well as our community for multiple reasons... but we'll just address the tax impact.

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The above data is available on the town website: <http://windhamnh.gov/documentcenter/view/29>

**TOWN ARTICLE #9 (\$40,000 – Water Line Study)**

This will allow the town to hire a consultant(s) to study and prepare preliminary design plans for a possible water line along Route 111 primarily in the area between Route 93 and Ledge Road.

**Summary of Cost Impact:**

2018 tax impact = \$0.017/\$1,000.  
The property tax cost per \$500,000 home = \$8.50

**TOWN ARTICLE #10 (\$70,000 – Nesmith Library Roof Repairs)**

Recommend: **Yes**

The purpose of this Article is to replace the Nesmith Library roof, as well as make any necessary repairs.

**Summary of Cost Impact:**

2018 tax impact = \$0.03/\$1,000.  
The property tax cost per \$500,000 home = \$15.00

**TOWN ARTICLE #11 (\$180,000 – Replace & Upgrade Fire Dept. Radios)**

Recommend: **Yes**

This is a safety issue. Approval of this article will allow the town to replace and upgrade the Fire Department portable and mobile radios. This is part of the Capital Improvement Program.

**Summary of Cost Impact:**

2018 tax impact = \$0.078/\$1,000.  
The property tax cost per \$500,000 home = \$39.00

**TOWN ARTICLE #19 (\$14,387,516.36 Town Budget)**

Proposed Budget: \$14,387,516.36  
Default Budget: \$14,051,826.36

**Summary of Cost Impact:**

2018 tax impact = \$6.24/\$1,000.  
The property tax cost per \$500,000 home = \$3,120

**The Windham Taxpayers Coalition strongly supports the following candidates:**

**SCHOOL BOARD**

**Tom Murray (incumbent) Yes**

**Cynthia Finn Yes**

**Windham High School  
March 13, 2018 7am – 8pm**

**YOUR VOTE ONLY COUNTS IF YOU CAST IT!**



[www.WindhamTaxpayers.org](http://www.WindhamTaxpayers.org)

Paid for by the Windham Taxpayers Coalition, PO Box 273, Windham, NH 03087



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LOCAL  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

**MARCH 13, 2018 VOTER'S GUIDE**

Look inside to learn more about Town and School Issues.  
Including Budgets and Warrant Articles with significant tax impacts.

**VOTE**

**Polls open at 7am to 8pm at Windham High School**

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Dear Windham Residents,

On behalf of the Windham Taxpayers Coalition, I would like to thank all of the Windham residents who have donated their time and resources to help the WTC distribute this Voter's Guide. It is nice to see so many new people to get involved each year.

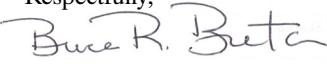
I'd also like to request that before you cast your vote on Tuesday, please keep this in mind... every year, a small number of groups and individuals promote their friends who are candidates, by falsely attacking the character of honorable people who have proven, successful track records. They do this just days before the election and leave no time to respond.

These type of false and baseless attacks led to an incumbent School Board Member from retaining his seat on the School Board in 2017, and this year our town will pay dearly. During his tenure on the Board, SAT proficiency test scores soared and the local school tax rate portion of your property taxes were **drastically reduced from \$16.60 to \$13.54** per \$1,000 evaluation based on information provided by the school district.

The proposed local school tax rate on the ballot this year will **soar from \$13.54 to either \$17.35 or \$17.61** (depending on whether or not the teachers contract passes). That represents a **minimum increase of 28%, at a cost of \$1,905 for a \$500K home**. Some of that increase was due to the GBS/WMS renovation project, but more should have been done to keep the budget down.

Elections Have Consequences. Please cast an informed vote for those with experience, knowledge of our school district, and delivered proven results that have benefitted our children. Please feel free to share this information with your friends to make all of us more informed voters!

Respectfully,



Bruce R. Breton  
WTC Board Member, five-term Windham Selectman

**School Board Candidates (2 seats open)**

Only two candidates have been intimately involved with the School District for the past four years; current Board Member Tom Murray and Cynthia Finn. In fact, the remaining candidates attended only a few School Board meetings in that time frame.

While all of the candidates are very nice people and involved in our community in different ways, being nice is not a valid reason to ask people to oversee our district's \$50M education budget. Tom Murray and Cynthia Finn have been involved and delivered results that have benefitted children and our school district. They deserve our votes.

**Tom Murray (incumbent) Yes**

Mr. Murray is a visionary incumbent, a proven fiscal conservative who delivers results, and the Chairman of the Steering Committee overseeing the GBS/WMS project. One year into construction, the project is on-time and nearly \$3 Million under budget. Those results are directly due to Tom's expertise as CEO of Pugliese Contracting, the countless hours of donated time and resources he has made to the project, and his vigilant eagle eye on the budget while overseeing the weekly decision making process. Having Mr. Murray's oversight for the next 1.5 years through completion will ensure the project is completed in the most cost effective manner, and ensure all savings are returned to the taxpayers.

To further put Mr. Murray's value to our district into perspective, compare his results (so far), to the High School project, which was a disaster from the beginning. Once construction of the High School began, there was no turning back. That School Board asked voters for an extra \$10 Million AND reduced the size of the school by more than 20%, IN ADDITION to removing the track.

Mr. Murray was also a big part of reducing our local school tax rate down to \$13.54/\$1,000. He is the only School Board Member who voted against the proposed budget, which will increase property taxes by close to \$2,000 for a \$500K home. Tom understands there is a limit

to what can be asked of parents and taxpayers. He points to the academic results in FY2017 to prove the significant increases in this year's proposed budget are not necessary (outside of the construction bond payments), because there were other areas where expenses could have been trimmed.

Mr. Murray worked closely with the Internal Control Review auditors in 2016 to help expose over 130 risks and deficiencies that were embedded throughout the district's accounting practices.

He has served on the Facilities and Building & Grounds Committees for the past four years, overseeing planning and maintenance of our existing buildings.

He voted to approve (in a 3-2 vote) managing the district's landscaping needs in-house. That led to an est. **\$900,000 savings** over 10 yrs.

He was instrumental in exposing the wasteful \$588K Cenergistic contract prior to his election, as well as bringing energy efficient lighting to the High School saving the district \$113K over 10 yrs.

We commend Mr. Murray for generously giving of his time to our community.

**Cynthia Finn Yes**

Mrs. Finn has attended every school board meeting over the past four years. No other candidate (other than Tom Murray) can come close to making that claim. She is a dedicated resident with a level of school district knowledge and understanding not found in a typical resident. She has also played an integral role in planning the GBS/WMS renovation project as a member of the Facilities and Building & Grounds committees over the past four years.

Prior to voter approval, Cynthia gave generously of her time as she initiated and managed the Information Committee to help Windham residents better understand the renovation project so the town could make a more informed vote.

She is a true fiscal conservative who advocates for student involvement and parental rights.

She is a strong proponent of seeking parental input regarding shared governance of our School District, and will seek to re-invigorate the Board's volunteer committees that have been ignored over the past year.

She serves on the Windham High School Principal's Counsel and the District Improvement Plan Committee.

We commend Mrs. Finn for generously giving of her time to our community.

**Shannon Ulery**

Mrs. Ulery currently serves as the president of the PTA. She has volunteered to help our community in these other capacities: School/Extracurricular Activities Volunteer, District Improvement Committee Member, District Parents Council Member, Strawberry Festival Planning Committee, Girl Scouts Volunteer.

We commend Mrs. Ulery for generously giving of her time to our community.

**Jaime Slocum**

Mrs. Slocum serves on the District Parents Council.

She also serves on the executive board of the Windham MOMS Club, and as Chair of the Friends of the Library of Windham's Children's Fair. She has served on the executive board of the Windham Garden Club and serves as co-chair for the Windham Garden Club Plant Sale.

We commend Mrs. Slocum for generously giving of her time to our community.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT Article #2 (School Budget)**

**Proposed Budget:** \$54,029,648\* **Default Budget:** \$54,132,881\*.

\*The amount of the proposed and default budget does not include the cost for Article 3 (the Teacher Contract). If approved by voters, this will become part of the operating budget immediately.

**Summary of Cost Impact:**

School Articles Requested by District  
Proposed Operating Budget: \$54,029,648  
Teacher's Contract (first year): \$595,939  
**Total Proposed District Budget: \$54,625,587** (This represents **a one year increase of \$4,612,920**)

**Note:** Incumbent School Board Candidate Tom Murray was the only School Board Member who fought to reduce the proposed and default budgets.

**Note:** You deserve a real choice between the Proposed Budget and the Default Budget. Call your State Reps and Senator and demand the default budget laws be re-written to prohibit the Board and Administrators from manipulating the default budget by carrying forward appropriations that are not required to properly operate the district.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT Article #3 (Teacher Contract)**

The teacher contract is a two year contract between the school board and the teachers' union. There are some concerns regarding the contract that are important to point out:

The main health insurance plan offered to teachers has been slightly downgraded. Most teachers will only contribute 8% to healthcare in the first year of the contract, and 10% in the second year.

Only the top step teachers (step 15) are receiving a Cost of Living Adjustment in salary (2%). In two of the last three contracts, the top step took all of the COLA raises. In the other contract, the top step received a vast majority of the COLA raises. This has been a disturbing trend that will eventually lead to the district not being able to retain or attract top talent in the lower steps – unless extremely large COLA raises are awarded to steps 1-14, with no adjustments made to the top step. **Prior to 2014, all COLA raises were evenly distributed across all steps – to all teachers.**

The contract defines goals for maximum class sizes (student:teacher ratios). Considering that over 70% of the district budget is tied to salaries and benefits, it is the administration and school board that must retain control over these decisions – and not the union. While there is currently a clause that states the goals are not requirements – it is important to note **the union's goal was to dictate class sizes in the 2016 contract.**

**Summary of Cost Impact:**

Year 2018 tax impact = \$0.258/\$1,000. Cost = \$593,939  
Year 2019 tax impact = \$0.236/\$1,000. Cost = \$542,862  
The 2018 property tax increase per \$500K home = \$129.00  
The 2019 property tax increase per \$500K home = \$118.00  
Total cost over two years = \$1,136,801

**SCHOOL DISTRICT Article #4 (Special Election)**

Recommend: **NO**

If Article 3 (WEA Teachers Contract) fails in the March 13th election, approval of this article would enable the School Board to call for a special election to hold another vote on the WEA Teacher Contract. The number of voters at a special meeting is typically extremely low, thereby providing an opportunity for a very small number of people to overturn the will of the voters.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT Article #5 (\$100,000 Special Education Capital Reserve Fund)**

Recommend: **Yes**

In past years, the district raised \$200,000 for special education contingencies each year. If this article is approved, \$100,00 will be retained from the unassigned fund balance, up to \$100,000. This would be added to the \$100,000 that was retained in a fund that was created last year – with the intent to lower future tax payments by reducing the amount of contingency money that would need to be raised each subsequent year.

**Summary of Cost Impact: No amount to be raised by additional taxation**

**Windham High School**  
**March 13, 2018 7am – 8pm**  
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