

**For the Week of February 24th, 2025**

## **WHAT ARE THE TOWN MEETING DAY BALLOT ITEMS?**

Your Town's elected Selectboard has proposed three Town articles to be voted on by Australian ballot this year -- the **Town Municipal Services Budget**, and the Reauthorization of the **Information Technology Reserve Fund** and the **Communications Reserve Fund**. You will find information related to each of these articles below.

### **ARTICLE 6 - Town Municipal Services Budget**

“Shall the voters of the Town of Colchester approve total general fund expenditures of Sixteen Million, Nine Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand, Six Hundred Ninety-Three Dollars (\$16,936,693) of which Fourteen Million, Two Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand, Four Hundred Thirty-Nine Dollars (\$14,248,439) shall be raised by taxes and Two Million, Six Hundred Eighty-Eight Thousand, Two Hundred Fifty-Four Dollars (\$2,688,254) by non-tax revenues for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026?”

- Estimated municipal services tax rate increase of 4.86%.
- Maintains current level of municipal services and addresses: 1) additional resource needs in the Assessor’s Office necessitated by the state’s requirement to conduct a town-wide reappraisal, as well as achieving the Selectboard’s goal to reduce costs by transitioning to a rolling reappraisal moving forward; 2) retention of volunteer firefighters by increasing stipends when responding to calls; 3) recognition of DPW-Highway staff that have gained the skill and ability to operate heavy equipment, creating a growth opportunity within the department, and providing a benefit to the Town by having more than one person able to operate our large equipment when needs arise; 4) community programming needs within Colchester Burnham Library by transitioning one 35-hour/week library employee to 40-hours/week.
- Residential Property Value Impact: For a property valued at \$300,000, the municipal services tax increase would be \$96 more than the current year, or \$1.84 more per week.
- [Summary of the Proposed FY26 Budget](#)
- [Budget Document Page](#) (Budget Presentation, Revenues, Expenses, and Budget by Area of Expenditure)

### **ARTICLE 7 – Information Technology Reserve Fund**

“Shall the voters of the Town of Colchester reauthorize the Selectboard to maintain a reserve fund accumulating annually in the amount of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) for a period of five years, for the purpose of financing technology replacements and upgrades?”

- This is a reauthorization of the current annual funding amount and will not increase taxes.
- Supports regular replacement of servers, firewalls, and back-up devices; desktops, laptops, and tablets for staff, elected officials, and volunteer boards; public use and special purpose programs; email systems; mobile terminals for public safety.
- [More information](#)

### ARTICLE 8 – Communications Reserve Fund

“Shall the voters of the Town of Colchester reauthorize the Selectboard to maintain a reserve fund accumulating annually in the amount of Twenty-Five Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars (\$25,500) for a period of five years, for the purpose of financing telephone and radio replacements and upgrades?”

- This is a reauthorization of the current annual funding amount and will not increase taxes.
- Supports Town-wide phone system, digital phones, base stations and repeaters, for Police, Fire, Rescue, Public Works, and Parks.
- [More information](#)

If you have any questions about these Town ballot items please contact Renae Marshall, Deputy Town Manager at [RMarshall@colchestervt.gov](mailto:RMarshall@colchestervt.gov) or by phone at 802-264-5509.

## Comparison – Inner Chittenden County Municipal Services Taxes per Resident

Williston	\$ 758
<b>Colchester ( 2nd lowest )</b>	<b>\$ 829</b>
Essex (Town)	\$ 1,034
Winooski	\$ 1,039
Essex (City)	\$ 1,056
South Burlington	\$ 1,093
Burlington	\$ 1,096
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$ 986</b>



2024-25 MUNICIPAL TAX RATES FROM TOWN LISTER/ASSESSOR'S DATA  
Colchester is approximately 15% below average for inner Chittenden County.

## **2025 Town Meeting**

The legal voters of the Town of Colchester, Vermont are notified and warned to meet at the Colchester High School Auditorium, Laker Lane, in said Town on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 7:00 PM to act on Articles 1-5 not involved in voting by Australian ballot.

The legal voters of the Town of Colchester, Vermont are notified and warned to reconvene at the Colchester High School, Laker Lane, in said Town on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, for voters in District 19 and District 20 to vote for Town Officers and to transact any other business involving voting by Australian Ballot with voting to begin at 7:00 a.m. and to close at 7:00 p.m. (Early voting information below.)

### **Early/Absentee Voting:**

- 1) Request a ballot from the [state online](#) and vote by early/absentee ballot.
2. Request by phone at 802-264-5520 to have your absentee ballot sent by U.S. Mail.
- 3) Obtain ballot in-person at the Town Clerk's Office at the Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, M-F, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Completed ballots can be:

1. Brought to the Town Clerk's office by noon, March 3, 2025.
2. Dropped off in our Green Drive-up Box between Town Hall and Police Department buildings by 4:30 p.m., Monday, March 3, 2025.
3. Sent by U.S. Mail and received by Monday, March 3, 2025.
4. Brought to the Colchester High School gymnasium on Election Day, March 4, 2025, and deposited in the drop box at the HELP DESK.

### [Voter Registration Information](#)



The Colchester Democrats and Republicans are once again collaborating on a free, bipartisan event for the community.

This year's Legislative Town Hall and Community Dinner will take place at the Colchester High School on Monday, March 3rd from 5:30-6:30 p.m., just before the Town and school budget presentations. We are fortunate to have community member Rick Knapp preparing a wonderful pasta dinner!

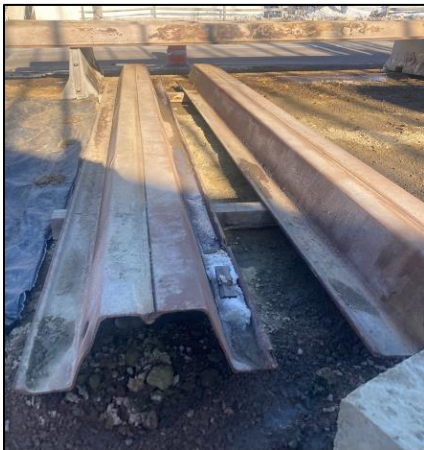
This event is a great opportunity to connect with your neighbors and stay informed about important local issues.

---

## Department Updates

### Malletts Bay Sewer Construction Update

Shoring and crane at location of future West Lakeshore Drive wastewater pump station



The Town has developed and implemented an improved traffic control plan for the initial installation of the sewer pump station near The Moorings on West Lakeshore Drive. The road will not be closed except when construction absolutely requires lane closures for the safety of the traveling public. Four flaggers and one traffic control coordinator will be onsite during construction activity to adapt to traffic flow patterns and minimize the disruptions caused by this project, to the greatest extent possible.

The excavation for the pump station near The Moorings had to occur during winter because it will take place below the lake level at 25' deep. Excavating during winter reduces the water migration into the excavation which reduces excavation time, cost and environmental impact.

No lane closures will occur on March 3rd or March 4th due to Town Meeting Day.

Information regarding this updated traffic control plan has been sent out via a press release, as well as the Town's Facebook page, Front Porch Forum and to those who have signed up to

receive information via Constant Contact. Here is a link to more information on the Town website: <https://colchestervt.gov/3291/Malletts-Bay-Sewer>

The Malletts Bay Sewer is not funded with municipal services taxes or local option taxes. It is funded with federal and state grants and fees paid only by the properties that will be connected within the Malletts Bay Sewer service area.

**Contact Information:** Norm Baldwin, P.E., Director of Public Works, 802-264-5620; Danylo Whalen, Engineer II, 802-264-5515

---

## Upcoming Town Meetings & Agendas

**Selectboard Meeting:** Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Residents are welcome to attend the meeting. Alternatively, send a note, up to 1,000 words, to [TownManager@colchestervt.gov](mailto:TownManager@colchestervt.gov) with “Citizens to be Heard” in the Subject and your name. As with in-person Citizens to be Heard, we ask that you SHARE YOUR ADDRESS. The email will be shared with the entire Selectboard prior to the meeting and included in the information packet at the next meeting.

- Watch the Meeting Online via Live Stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
- Agenda: [www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas](http://www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas)

**Planning Commission:** Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=PLANAGENDA>

**Recreation Advisory Board:** Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 a.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=RecAdv&path=BOARDS%2CRecAdv%2C>

**Development Review Board:** Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Residents are welcome to attend the meeting or public comments can be submitted prior to the hearing by email to [zmaia@colchestervt.gov](mailto:zmaia@colchestervt.gov) or by mail to Town of Colchester, c/o Development Review Board, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446. Agenda: [https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=DRBAGENDA&path=DRB%2CDRB\\_Agendas%2CDRBAGENDA%2C](https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=DRBAGENDA&path=DRB%2CDRB_Agendas%2CDRBAGENDA%2C)

**Library Board of Trustees:** Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m., in the Burnham Room of the Burnham Memorial Library. Agenda: <https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=LibBoard&path=BOARDS%2CLibBoard%2C>

**Colchester Conservation Commission:** Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m. in the Champlain Room, Colchester Town Office. [https://clerkshq.com/Content/Colchester-vt/Boards/ConservCommsn.htm#\\_CPA1](https://clerkshq.com/Content/Colchester-vt/Boards/ConservCommsn.htm#_CPA1)

**Subscribe to the Town Newsletter:** <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/jkMAO2v>

For more information or to comment, call 802-264-5509 or email [townmanager@colchestervt.gov](mailto:townmanager@colchestervt.gov)