

TOWN WARRANT 2026

To Karan Stark, Citizen of the Town of Bowdoin in the County of Sagadahoc, State of Maine.
GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Bowdoin, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to assemble at the Bowdoin Central School in said Bowdoin on Saturday, the 7th day of March 2026, at nine o'clock in the forenoon to act on the following articles, to wit

- Article 1.** To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.
- Article 2.** To elect a Clerk for the ensuing year and fix compensation for same.
- Article 3.** To hear the report of the Select Board.
- Article 4.** To hear the report of the Tax Collector.
- Article 5.** To hear the report of the Treasurer.
- Article 6.** To hear the report of the Planning Board.
- Article 7.** To hear the report of the Town Forest Account.
- Article 8.** To hear the report of the M.S.A.D. #75 Directors.
- Article 9.** To hear the report of the Recreation Department.
- Article 10.** To hear the report of the Bowdoin Volunteer Fire Department.
- Article 11.** To hear the report of the Bowdoin EMA Director.
- Article 12.** To hear the report of the Bowdoin Historical Society.
- Article 13.** To elect one Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor to serve a 3-year term (currently held by **Marc Bernier**).
- Article 14.** To see what salary the Town wishes to set for the services of the Select Board, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor.
(Recommended compensation; \$4,000 for each person from taxation)
- Article 15.** To elect a Collector of Taxes for the ensuing year and fix compensation for the same.
- Article 16.** To elect a Road Commissioner for the ensuing year and fix compensation for same. **(Recommended compensation; \$1,200 from taxation)**
- Article 17.** To elect a Director to MSAD 75 School Board for a 3-year term (currently held by **James Moulton**) to begin July 1, 2026 and to end June 30, 2029.

- Article 18.** To elect a Member of the Planning Board for a 3-year term (currently held by **Michaeline Mulvey**)
- Article 19.** To elect a Member of the Planning Board for a 3-year term (currently held by **Helen Watts**)
- Article 20.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the operation of the Town Fire Department in addition to funding and donations that they receive, plus carryover. **(Recommended; \$67,050 from taxation)**
- Article 21.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Fire Department Capital Reserve Account. **(Recommended; \$60,000 from surplus)**
- Article 22.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Emergency Management Agency Account. **(Recommended; \$1,000 from taxation)**
- Article 23.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the ambulance service with Lisbon Emergency, Inc. **(Recommended; not to exceed; \$190,000 from taxation)**
- Article 24.** To see what the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the operation of the Recreation Department in addition to funding and donations they receive, plus carryover. **(Recommended; \$8,450 from taxation)**
- Article 25.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Winter Highways. **(Recommended; \$510,500: \$293,500 from excise and \$217,000 from taxation)**
- Article 26.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Road Maintenance & Capital Improvements. **(Recommended; \$141,500 from excise)**
- Article 27.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Paving and Sealing of Town roads or act in relation thereto. **(Recommended; \$350,000: \$291,000 from excise and \$59,000 from MDOT)**
- Article 28.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for a Contingency Fund. **(Recommended; \$15,000 from taxation)**
- Article 29.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Operation of the Solid Waste Management Program/Recycling Facility. **(Recommended; \$38,750 from taxation)**

- Article 30.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority to allow the Town to utilize the Authority's facilities for disposal of septic tank waste. **(Recommended; \$250 from taxation)**
- Article 31.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Animal Control and Mid Coast Humane in addition to fees and other funding they may receive. **(Recommended; \$18,000 from taxation)**
- Article 32.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the licensing of the Trio Software as needed. **(Recommended; \$17,600 from taxation)**
- Article 33.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for security software/equipment and licensing. **(Recommended; \$31,500 from taxation)**
- Article 34.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Town Salaries. **(Recommended; \$206,991; \$100,000 from surplus and \$106,991 from taxation)**
- Article 35.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Town Expense. **(Recommended; \$112,300 from taxation)**
- Article 36.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Planning Board expense in addition to income from Planning Board fees. **(Recommended; \$4,900 from taxation)**
- Article 37.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Bowdoin Flurry Flyers snowmobile club for maintaining the club's snowmobile trails. **(Recommended; half of the State rebate from snowmobile registrations)**
- Article 38.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for General Assistance for the year 2026. **(Recommended; \$20,000 from taxation)**
- Article 39.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Bowdoinham Water District for hydrant rental. **(Recommended; \$9,886 from taxation)**
- Article 40.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to support Social Service Agencies at the discretion of the Select Board. **(Recommended; \$3,000 from taxation)**
- Article 41.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to support the membership to the Topsham Library. **(Recommended; \$1,500 from taxation)**

- Article 42.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Fire Department to purchase masks and air bottles. **(Recommended; \$60,000 from surplus).**
- Article 43.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to authorize the hiring of a Consultant to serve as the Town's Assessing Agent. **(Recommended; \$34,000 from taxation)**
- Article 44.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for community services in support of cemetery maintenance. **(Recommended; \$1,000 from taxation)**
- Article 45.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for community services in support of The Bowdoin Historical Society's Utilities. **(Recommended; \$700 from taxation)**
- Article 46.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for deferred repairs and maintenance to the Maine Waste to Energy facility. **(Recommended; \$25,000 from surplus)**
- Article 47.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for structural repairs to the salt shed. **(Recommended; \$10,000 from surplus)**
- Article 48.** To see what amount the Town will vote to raise and appropriate to set aside funds for the Emergency Road Repair Reserve to cover the cost of road damages resulting from severe weather. These repairs may include; debris removal, repair of roads, repair of culverts, erosion repair and asphalt repair. **(Recommended; \$10,000 from surplus)**
- Article 49.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for legal fees to research the status of discontinued Town roads. **(Recommended; \$5,000 from Town Forest Fund)**
- Article 50.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board on behalf of the Town to sell or otherwise dispose of obsolete Town equipment and material on such terms as they shall deem proper.
- Article 51.** To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board on behalf of the Town to sell and dispose of Real Estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon, and execute quitclaim deeds for such property (Exception, to allow quitclaim deeds back to original owner without first putting it out to bid) (All property to be advertised for a period of 30 days in at least two public places within the Town and sold by sealed bid) ("Except that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S. § 943-C for qualifying

homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s)").

- Article 52.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the consent of the municipal officers, to waive foreclosure of tax lien mortgages in accordance with 36 M.R.S.A. Section 944 when the Treasurer and municipal officers determine that such waiver is in the best interest of the town (Example: in situations where the property contains a toxic waste site, an old and dangerous structure, or has some other condition which makes it a liability rather than an asset and those cases, the Town may want to file a civil suit to collect its taxes rather than taking possession of the property).
- Article 53.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to spend no more than 3/12 of the approved budget amount in each category of the **2026** annual budget during the period from January 1, **2027** to the **2027** annual town meeting.
- Article 54.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to allow the Treasurer to charge a fee for returned checks. **(Recommended; \$25.00 plus bank fee)**
- Article 55.** To see if the Town will vote to set the dates for payments of property taxes after which interest will be charged and the dates when interest will commence. (Not retroactive) (Recommended: First half due **August 7, 2026**, with interest to commence **August 10, 2026**. Second half due **December 4, 2026** with interest to commence **December 7, 2026**)
- Article 56.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to apply for and accept grant funds offered, and to make such assurances, assume such responsibilities, and exercise such authority as is necessary and reasonable to implement such programs and to expend grant proceeds in accordance with specific grant requirements.
- Article 57.** To see if the Town will vote to accept donations and gifts to be deposited into the Town's appropriate and legal accounts.
- Article 58.** To see if the Town will vote to accept State Funds for the period from July 1, **2026** to June 30, **2027**, deposited in the Town's appropriate and legal accounts.
- Article 59.** To see what sum the town will vote to raise and/or appropriate to pay **tax abatements** and applicable interest granted during this calendar year. **(Recommended; 1.5 % interest rate and use of funds from surplus)**
- Article 60.** To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate to be charged on unpaid taxes for the year **2026**. **(Recommended; 7.0% which is the maximum rate that can be charged per Title 36, M.R.S.A. Section 505.4)**

- Article 61.** To see if the Town will vote to waive the interest on the first half of the tax bill if the entire year's bill is paid within 30 days of the first due date.
- Article 62.** To see if the Town will vote to set the interest rate for overpayment of taxes for the year 2026 at the rate for delinquent taxes less 4%. **(Recommended; 3.0%)**
- Article 63.** To see if the Town will authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. Sect. 506.
- Article 64.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Municipal Officers to make final determinations regarding the closing or opening of roads to winter maintenance pursuant to 23 M.R.S.A. 2953.
- Article 65.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize any budget balances in 2026 to be applied to the surplus account.
- Article 66.** To see if the Town will vote to exceed the property tax levy limit of \$0.00, established by State law for the Town of Bowdoin, by increasing the property tax limit to _____ which is the amount approved by the Town at this Town Meeting today, to be appropriated from taxation.

Given under our hands at Bowdoin, Maine

This 2nd day of February 2026

Kavan Stark Citizen

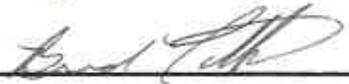
Select Board Members



Marc J Bernier, Chair

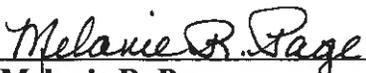


Jane Boyle



Brad Totten

A True Copy Attest


Melanie R. Page
Town Clerk of Bowdoin