

How did Hampton Voters react to recommendations on how to cast their ballots?

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) and the Budget Committee (BudCom) each provide official recommendations printed on the ballot for and against each warrant article. One additional private group, the Rational Taxpayers of Hampton (RTOH), issues a flyer with their own perspective on how people should vote. In the Know Hampton, an online information resource for voters, examined this year’s controversial Articles - defined as issues where at least one of the 3 recommending groups differed from the other two. Of the 47 Articles, the Board of Selectmen took a position on 32 (68% of all the articles), the Budget Committee took a position on 26 (81% of the number that BOS took) and the Rational Taxpayers of Hampton issued a recommendation on 25 (78% of the BOS number). Versus the prior 5 years, the Budget Committee was more aligned with the Board of Selectman, agreeing on 92% of the positions versus 81% in the prior five years, whereas the Rational Taxpayers of Hampton only agreed with the Board of Selectmen on 56% of the recommendations, versus the average in the prior five years of 71%.

How did the voters react to these controversial issues? Of the 11 controversial articles, the voters agreed with the position taken by the Board of Selectmen on 7, or 64%, with the Budget Committee on 9, or 82% and with the Rational Taxpayers of Hampton on 4 controversial articles, or 36%. True to prior years, Hampton voters review the available information but decide for themselves how to vote. They do not strictly adhere to any of the recommendations. However, this year’s results do show a much stronger alignment with the Town’s official recommendations as opposed to that of the private group.

Which were the controversial articles, and how did they fare?

Article #		BOS	BudCom	RTOH	Voters Pass/Fail #	Outcome
10	Wastewater Treatment Upgrades	YES	NO	NO	-356	Failed
11	Town Budget	YES	YES	NO	455	Passed
14	Police Officers Collective Bargaining	YES	YES	NO	147	Passed
15	Police Sergeants Collective Bargaining	YES	YES	NO	129	Passed
16	Teamsters Collective Bargaining	YES	YES	NO	-55	Failed
19	Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund	YES	YES	NO	376	Passed
20	High Street Culvert	YES	NO	NO	-1060	Failed
24	Utility Valuations	YES	YES	NO	167	Passed
28	Fire Prevention Secretary	YES	YES	NO	-734	Failed
34	Cable Franchise Fees 100% to Local TV	YES	YES	NO	336	Passed
44	Town Clock Repair	YES	YES	NO	8	Passed
	Voters Agreement with Group	64%	82%	36%		

Detailed voting results are available at intheknowhampton.org.