

**TOWN OF GOULDSBORO**  
**2025 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT**

**Hancock County**

**State of Maine**

To: Magen Merchant, Resident, Town of Gouldsboro

Greetings:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Gouldsboro in said County of Hancock, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Gouldsboro Community Center on Route 195, Pond Road, Gouldsboro on Tuesday, the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) day of June, A. D. 2025 at Eight O'clock (8:00 AM) in the forenoon, then and there to act on Articles numbered 1 and 2.

You are also to notify and warn said voters to meet at the Peninsula School Gym on Main Street, Prospect Harbor on Wednesday, the eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) day of June, A. D. 2025 at Seven O'clock (7:00 PM) in the evening, then and there to act on Articles numbered 3 through 63, all of said Articles being set out below, to wit:

**ARTICLE 1.** To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

**ARTICLE 2.** To elect the following Town Officials by secret ballot:

Two Selectmen	3 Year Terms – Expires June 2028
One Planning Board member	3 Year Term – Expires June 2028

**MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE ELECTION:**

**ARTICLE 3.** To choose the following members of the Budget Committee:

Dwight Rodgers	3 Year Term – Expires June 2028
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**MUNICIPAL GENERAL FUND WARRANT ARTICLES:**

**ARTICLE 4.** To see if the Town will vote to resume the mailing of a monthly newsletter (cost is estimated up to \$10,000).

**ARTICLE 5.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$424,263 for the General Administration Department of the municipal budget for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

*The Board of Selectmen recommends approval. The Budget Committee does not recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 6.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$135,711 for the Services and Committees Department of the municipal budget for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

*The Board of Selectmen recommends approval. The Budget Committee does not recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 7.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$137,020 for the Town Property Department of the municipal budget for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.  
*The Board of Selectmen recommends approval. The Budget Committee does not recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 8.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$976,555 for the Public Safety Department of the municipal budget for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.  
*The Board of Selectmen recommends approval. The Budget Committee does not recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 9.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$923,944 for the Public Works Department of the municipal budget for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.  
*The Board of Selectmen recommends approval. The Budget Committee does not recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 10.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$246,177 for the Insurance of the municipal budget for the period of July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.  
*The Board of Selectmen recommends approval. The Budget Committee does not recommend approval.*

**OTHER MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL WARRANT ARTICLES:**

**ARTICLE 11.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$10,000 for the Dorcas Library request.  
*The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 12.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$8,000 for the Historical Society request.  
*The Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 13.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$12,300 for the Schoodic Food Pantry.  
*The Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 14.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$435,000 for the Paving Reserve.  
*Estimated balance in the Paving Reserve as of April 2025 is \$385,024.  
The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 15.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$37,000 for the Public Works Reserve.  
*Estimated balance in the Public Works Reserve as of April 2025 is \$30,361.  
The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 16.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the Fire Equipment Reserve.  
*Estimated balance in the Fire Equipment Reserve as of April 2025 is \$164,800.  
The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 17.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 for the Community Cemetery Reserve.

*Estimated balance in the Community Cemetery Reserve as of April 2025 is \$3,367  
The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 18.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$43,000 for the Cruiser and Academy Reserve.

*Estimated balance in the Cruiser and Academy Reserve as of April 2025 is \$54,757  
The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 19.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer up to \$40,000 of any remaining balance on June 30, 2025 from the Police Department Division of the Public Safety Department to the Police Cruiser and Academy Reserve and earmark those funds for Academy or buyout expenses. Any other remaining balance will be transferred to the General Fund.

*The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 20.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for the Buildings and Grounds Reserve.

*Estimated balance in the Buildings and Grounds Reserve as of April 2025 is \$112,154  
(\$40,000 earmarked for fire station roof replacement).  
The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 21.** To see if the Town will vote to retain \$10,000 from the EMS Reserve and transfer the remaining balance from EMS Reserve to the general fund to offset medical/ambulance services.

*Estimated balance in the EMS Reserve as of April 2025 is \$131,752  
The Board of Selectmen recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 22.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$63,000 for the Ambulance Reserve.

*Estimated balance in the Ambulance Reserve as of April 2025 is \$27,163.  
The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 23.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 for the Harbor Reserve.

*Estimated balance in the Harbor Reserve as of April 2025 is \$64,147.  
The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 24.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a maximum of \$250,000 from Undesignated Fund Balance (surplus) to offset taxes, if necessary and available.

*The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 25.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the Jones Pond Reserve.

*Estimated balance in the Jones Pond Reserve as of April 2025 is \$24,205  
The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 26.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for the Legal & Executive Search Reserve.

*Estimated balance in the Legal & Executive Search Reserve as of April 2025 is \$67,845  
The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 27.** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Revaluation Reserve for the purpose of paying for a townwide property revaluation and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$70,000 for the Revaluation Reserve.

*The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 28.** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Coastal Planning & Protection Reserve for the purpose of paying for infrastructure improvements related to storm damage and resiliency and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 for the Coastal Planning & Protection Reserve.

*The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 29.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all unexpended balances at the end of the fiscal year from the Recreation Committee to the Recreation Reserve.

### **THIRD PARTY AND OUTSIDE AGENCY WARRANT ARTICLES**

The following organizations requested contributions from the Town of Gouldsboro for Fiscal Year 2026:

Community Health and Counseling \$300; Downeast Community Partners \$2,257; Eastern Area Agency on Aging \$350; Ellsworth Public Library \$6,812; Emmaus Homeless Shelter \$300; Families First Community Center \$1,000; Garry Owen House \$300; Hospice Hancock County \$500; Lake Stewards of Maine \$500; The Lifeflight Foundation \$851; Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry \$600; Maine Public \$100; Northern Light Home Care & Hospice \$300, Schoodic Arts for All \$750; Schoodic National Scenic Byway \$1,500; Sunrise Little League \$1,000; SPCA \$500; WIC Nutrition Program \$1,000.

**ARTICLE 30.** To see if the Town will vote raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,400 for the following organizations:

- The sum of \$300 for Community Health and Counseling
- The sum of \$300 for Downeast Community Partners
- The sum of \$300 for Eastern Area Agency on Aging
- The sum of \$300 for Emmaus Homeless Shelter
- The sum of \$300 for Families First Community Center
- The sum of \$300 for The Life Flight Foundation
- The sum of \$300 for WIC Program
- The sum of \$300 for Northern Light Home Care & Hospice Foundation

*The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 31.** To see if the Town will vote to raise general funds to donate to tax-exempt organizations (charities) during the next budget cycle.

## **OTHER WARRANT ARTICLES**

**ARTICLE 32.** To see if the Town will revoke Article 60 from the June 21, 1999 Annual Town Meeting:

*ARTICLE 60 – To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to take whatever actions are necessary for the Town to become a member of the Maine Municipal Association Property and Casualty Pool Program, including but not limited to the execution of any contract required for such membership and the payment of any required fees or charges. The authority granted herein shall be continued until revoked.*

**ARTICLE 33.** To see if the Town will revoke Article 61 from the June 21, 1999 Annual Town Meeting:

*ARTICLE 61 – To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all Boat Excise Taxes to the Harbor Reserve Fund and to continue such practice until specifically revoked.*

**ARTICLE 34.** To see if the Town will revoke Article 24 from the June 19, 2000 Annual Town Meeting:

*ARTICLE 24 – To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to take whatever actions are necessary for the Town to become a member of the Schoodic Area League of Towns (SALT), including but not limited to the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding for such membership and the payment of minor operating costs. The Selectmen recommend a sum no larger than \$100 to be taken from the administration account to cover minor operating costs. The authority granted herein shall be continued until revoked.*

**ARTICLE 35.** To see if the Town will revoke Article 44 from the June 19, 2000 Annual Town Meeting:

*ARTICLE 44 – To see if the Town will authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayments of taxes and to vote to pay 0% interest on said payments. The authority granted herein shall be continued until revoked.*

**ARTICLE 36.** To see if the Town will revoke Article 45 from the June 19, 2000 Annual Town Meeting:

*ARTICLE 45 – To see if the Town will authorize the Tax Collector to pay interest to any taxpayer who makes an overpayment of taxes, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A., Section 506-A, at a rate of 8% per annum. The authority granted herein shall be continued until revoked.*

**ARTICLE 37.** To see if the Town will revoke Article 49 from the June 19, 2000 Annual Town Meeting:

*ARTICLE 49 – To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell Town-owned equipment when they determine such property to be of no further value to the Town and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to return the funds to the appropriate municipal department. The authority granted herein shall be continued until revoked.*

**ARTICLE 38.** To see if the Town will revoke Article 50 from the June 19, 2000 Annual Town Meeting:

*ARTICLE 50 – To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept, on behalf of the Town, unconditional gifts of property and/or donations which they feel are in the Town's best interest to accept. The authority granted herein shall be continued until revoked.*

**ARTICLE 39 –** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept, on behalf of the Town, unconditional gifts of property and/or donations which they feel are in the Town's best interest to accept.

**ARTICLE 40.** To see if the Town will revoke Article 51 from the June 19, 2000 Annual Town Meeting:

*ARTICLE 51 – To see if the Town will authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept donations of money or private, state or federal grants for the purpose of supplementing a specific appropriation already made in order to reduce the Town's tax assessment or long-term debt. The authority granted herein shall be continued until revoked.*

**ARTICLE 41 –** To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to accept donations of money or private, state or federal grants for the purpose of supplementing a specific appropriation already made in order to reduce the Town's tax assessment or long-term debt.

**ARTICLE 42.** To see if the Town will revoke Article 52 from the June 19, 2000 Annual Town Meeting:

*ARTICLE 52 – To see if the Town will vote to have unexpended balances and overdrafts in all accounts at the end of the fiscal year, except those which remain by law or are deemed necessary by the Board of Selectmen, transferred to Unappropriated Surplus. The authority granted herein shall be continued until revoked.*

**ARTICLE 43 –** To see if the Town will vote to have unexpended balances and overdrafts in all accounts at the end of the fiscal year, except those which remain by law or are deemed necessary by the Select Board, transferred to Unappropriated Surplus.

**ARTICLE 44.** To see if the Town will revoke Article 53 from the June 19, 2000 Annual Town Meeting:

*ARTICLE 53 – To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to accept and expend any miscellaneous revenues received during Fiscal Year 2001 and that such revenues received by each department shall only be expended by that department. The authority granted herein shall be continued until revoked.*

**ARTICLE 45.** To see if the Town will revoke Article 18 from the June 12, 2007 Annual Town Meeting:

*ARTICLE 18 – To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all unexpended expense funds at the end of the fiscal year (current and future years) from the Fire Department account to the Fire Equipment Reserve. The authority granted herein shall be continued until revoked.*

**ARTICLE 46.** To see if the Town will revoke Article 17 from the June 8, 2010 Annual Town Meeting:

*ARTICLE 17 – To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all fees received by the Constable’s Department to the Constable Cruiser Purchase Reserve Fund (current and future years) to be used for purchase and major repair of cruisers.*

**ARTICLE 47.** To see if the Town will revoke Article 21 from the June 14, 2011 Annual Town Meeting:

*ARTICLE 21 – To see if the Town will vote to appropriate any unexpended funds (current and future years) from the Paving Expense Account to the Paving Reserve.*

**ARTICLE 48.** To see if the Town will revoke Article 45 from the June 12, 2012 Annual Town Meeting:

*ARTICLE 45 – To see if the Town will allow the Board of Selectmen to authorize the Treasurer to waive automatic lien foreclosures when it is in the best interest of the Town. The authority granted herein shall be continued until revoked.*

**ARTICLE 49 –** To see if the Town will allow the Select Board to authorize the Treasurer to waive automatic lien foreclosures when it is in the best interest of the Town.

**ARTICLE 50.** To see if the Town will revoke Article 23 from the June 10, 2014 Annual Town Meeting:

*ARTICLE 23 – To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell and/or dispose of any property acquired by tax lien after first offering the property to the previous owners for payment of all back taxes, fees and interest, and, if they decline, advertising by sealed bids of the same or realtor for permanent disposal, and to allow the Selectmen to authorize the Town Treasurer to execute a municipal quitclaim deed for such property and to deposit the net proceeds over costs and taxes owed from such sale into the Land Purchase Reserve Account. The authority granted herein shall be continued until revoked.*

**ARTICLE 51.** To see if the Town will revoke Article 28 from the June 12, 2018 Annual Town Meeting:

*ARTICLE 28 – To see if the Town will vote to allocate all proceeds from the sale of transfer station passes to the transfer station reserve account. The allocation granted herein shall be continued until revoked.*

**ARTICLE 52.** To see if the Town will revoke Article 9 from the August 26, 2020 Annual Town Meeting:

*ARTICLE 9 – To see if the Town will vote to appropriate any remaining funds in the Police Department on June 30, 2020, and future years, to be deposited into the Cruiser Reserve. The authority granted herein shall be continued until revoked.*

**ARTICLE 53.** To see if the Town of Gouldsboro (Town) will vote to join the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MainePERS) as a Participating Local District effective August 1, 2025, and:

- a.) To offer Regular Plan AC to all full-time employees who are not seasonal or temporary effective August 1, 2025; and
- b.) To exclude all other employees, including employees who are not full-time; or who are seasonal or temporary employees; and its elected officials and officials appointed for fixed terms, from participating in the MainePERS defined benefit plan; and
- c.) To allow eligible employees who opt to participate in MainePERS the option to purchase prior service credit for employment with the Town upon the employee's full payment of all associated costs. The Town will not participate in the purchase of prior service and so an employee who wishes to purchase prior service is responsible for paying the full liability associated with this service; and
- d.) To adopt the provisions of 5 M.R.S. §18252-C as enacted by PL 2021, Chapter 286 as allowed by MainePERS Rule Chapter 803 for its non-participating employees with optional membership who previously declined to participate in MainePERS ("eligible employees") and to comply with the following requirements:
  - i. Beginning in 2026, to annually offer eligible employees who have been employed for less than 5 years the opportunity to join MainePERS on a prospective basis during an open enrollment period from September 1<sup>st</sup> through November 1<sup>st</sup> and to provide MainePERS with documentation of each election made by eligible employees under this provision; and
  - ii. To calculate employee contributions against gross compensation as with other participating employees and then withhold and report employee contributions for employees who join under this provision on an after-tax basis and remit them to MainePERS (i.e., employee contributions for those who join under this provision are subject to both federal and state income tax); and
- e.) To authorize its Town Manager to enter into an agreement with MainePERS to adopt a 457(b) defined contribution plan through the MaineStart program in addition to the defined benefit plan at any time. There is no additional administrative cost to the Town to do this and it will give employees an additional way to save for retirement; and
- f.) To authorize its Town Manager to sign the defined benefit and any future defined contribution plan agreement between the Town and the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

**ARTICLE 54.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of tax-acquired property (1) in accordance with Title 36, Section 943-C of the Maine Revised Statutes, as may be amended, or (2) should the Select Board be unable to list or sell the property pursuant to Section 943-C, in any manner reasonably calculated by the Select Board to establish fair market value of the property. For sales to someone other than the former owner, excess sale proceeds, as calculated pursuant to Section 943-C, shall be returned to the former owner.

*The Board of Selectmen recommend approval.*



**ARTICLE 55.** To see if the Town will vote to have the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 taxes due in two installments: half to be due on or before October 31, 2025 and the other half to be due on or before March 31, 2026 and to have interest charged at the annual rate of 7.50% on any taxes unpaid after the due dates.

**ARTICLE 56.** To see if the Town will authorize the Tax Collector to pay interest to any taxpayer who makes an overpayment of taxes, pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A., Section 506-A, at a rate of 3.50% per annum.

**ARTICLE 57.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to dispose of town-owned property, excluding tax-acquired property, with a value of five thousand (\$5,000.00) or less, under such terms and conditions as they deem advisable.

*The Board of Selectmen recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 58.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter into multi-year contracts for public services.

*The Board of Selectmen recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 59.** To see if the Town will vote to retain the right to control the harvesting of alewives.

*The Board of Selectmen recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 60.** To see if the Town will approve amendments to the Harbor Ordinance.

*The Board of Selectmen and Harbor Committee recommend approval.*

**ARTICLE 61.** To see if the Town will vote to accept donations by the Ray Scholarship Fund for the benefit of Gouldsboro students at Sumner High School.


*The Board of Selectmen recommend approval.*

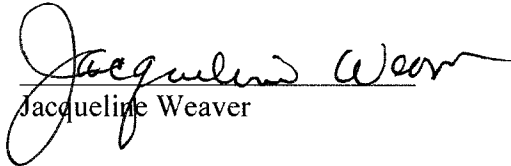
**ARTICLE 62.** To see if the Town will vote to increase the Property Tax Levy Limit established by State Law, in the event that the municipal budget approved at this town meeting results in a tax commitment in excess of the maximum property tax levy otherwise applicable, such that the increased maximum property tax levy hereby established will equal the amount committed.


*The Board of Selectmen recommend approval.*


**ARTICLE 63.** To see if the Town will vote to set the next Town Meeting as the second Tuesday in June 2026, to start at 8AM.


*The Registrar of Voters, or Deputy, hereby gives notice that she will be in session at the Community Center on the Pond Road from 8AM until 8PM on the day of the election, Tuesday, June 10, 2025, and at 7PM at the Peninsula School on Wednesday, June 11, 2025 for the purpose of revising and correcting the list of registered voters.*

  
Robert Harmon, Chair

  
Jacqueline Weaver

  
Danny Mitchell, Jr.

  
Peter McKenzie

Attest:   
Brianna L. Mitchell, Town Clerk  
Town of Gouldsboro