



2023 Voter's Guide

The Board of Selectmen are pleased to present our residents with the Voter's Guide to assist all voters who plan to visit the polls on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at Pelham High School between the hours of 7:00am and 8:00pm. Please note that voter turnout can be quite high during peak hours, so be sure to follow posted directions and traffic patterns to ensure the safety of all parties. Due to ongoing health and safety concerns, we request that anyone feeling unwell or otherwise showing symptoms of any infection, kindly practice basic precautions for the health and safety of others.

The purpose of this guide is to help you, the voter, make informed decisions as you cast your ballot. The way the Town operates and how much it spends is determined by you, the voters. Please note that the State's "No Means No" law prohibits the Town from spending any funds for the purposes described in the articles you are voting on, should the majority vote "no". The sole exemption is Article 6, the Town Budget. Please refer to Article 6 for explanation.

In the event you have questions that are not answered in this Voter's Guide, we welcome you to call the Selectmen's Office and you will be connected to the correct department. We strongly encourage you to vote on March 14, 2023, and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued civic participation and to remind you that, regardless of outcome, we move forward together, as the Town of Pelham.

Sincerely,

Pelham Board of Selectmen

Heather Corbett, Chair - 2023
Jaie Bergeron, Vice Chair - 2023
Kevin Cote - 2023
Jason Croteau - 2025
Charlene Takesian - 2025

**Town of Pelham
State of New Hampshire
2023 Town Meeting**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Pelham, in the County of Hillsborough and the State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town affairs, you are hereby notified of the following annual Town Meeting Schedule.

**First Session of Annual Meeting
(Deliberative Session)**

You are hereby notified to meet at the Sherburne Hall, 6 Village Green, Pelham, New Hampshire on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 7:00pm. This session shall consist of explanation, discussion, and debate of warrant articles numbered 2-16. Warrant articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) warrant articles the wording of which is prescribed by law shall not be amended and (b) warrant articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion, as amended.

**Second Session of Annual Town Meeting
(Official Ballot Voting)**

You are hereby notified to meet again at the Pelham High School, 85 Marsh Road, Pelham, New Hampshire on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, between the hours of 7:00am and 8:00pm to vote by official ballot in choosing all necessary Town officials for the ensuing year and to vote on warrant articles numbered 1-16.

A Citizen's Guide to Understanding Terms

Appropriations: A sum of money or total of assets devoted to a specific purpose.

Article: Individual numbered items within the warrant.

Budget Committee: An *elected* body of eleven (11) individuals which reviews and elects to approve or not approve all town and school budgets, as well as any and all articles involving the expenditure of funds. The budgets presented are prepared by the Budget Committee.

CBA: A Collective Bargaining Agreement is a contract between a group of employees (police, fire, or other municipal employees) and the Board of Selectmen, cost items of which are approved by the voters.

Capital Reserve Fund: Essentially a "savings account" created by action of a prior town meeting vote into which funds are placed for a designated purpose, but limited to capital expenditures- such as a piece of major equipment, building, etc.

Conservation Commission: A group of *appointed* officials tasked with "the proper utilization and protection of the natural resources of the Town, per RSA 36-A:2".

Forestry Committee: An *appointed* group of five (5) members who volunteer to plan, preserve, and protect public, forested lands (forests, parks, open space, water courses, wetlands) and the wildlife therein. They often work in conjunction with the Conservation Committee, Planning, the Board of Selectmen, as well as with Parks and Recreation.

Map/Lot: This designated the exact location of a parcel of land on the Town tax map.

Non-Capital Reserve Fund: The same "savings account" concept as a capital reserve fund, but not specifically tied to buildings or equipment.

Planning Board: An *elected* body - Pursuant to RSA 673:2, the Planning Board shall consist of seven (7) members, six (6) of whom shall be elected by the local legislative body and the seventh shall be an ex-officio member appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

RSA: Refers to a state law- Revised Statute Annnotated. These laws can be found on the State of New Hampshire's website under "Laws and Rules".

Special Warrant Article: As provided in State law, this designation identifies any appropriation in the article as non-lapsing (having no expiration date) and non-transferable (not to be used for anything other than the specific expressed purpose).

Unassigned Fund Balance: The accumulation of revenues over expenditures, accrued over the years. It can be used for any purpose voted on by the Board of Selectmen (with app and has been used to offset tax increases as well as to offset the cost of "big ticket" projects, such as the fire station.

Warrant: The official legal name for a group of articles presented to the voters.

Water Commission: The Water Commission is a board of five (5) *appointed* members who act in a fact finding and advisory capacity on all issues pertaining to water in the Town of Pelham.

Zoning Board of Adjustment: An *appointed* body of five (5) members. As a quasi-judicial board, the Zoning Board of Adjustment's (ZBA) primary responsibility is to determine what is lawful, not necessarily popular in determining the balance between the constitutional rights of property owners to the reasonable use of their land and the public rights of others.

A Change to the Voter's Guide

This year, after discussions by the Board of Selectmen, a decision was made to include the vote by which an article was approved. This was done in an attempt to help further educate citizens as to which issues do not have the full support of the Board and may require some extra attention on the part of every voter. The vote is indicated at the end of each warrant:

Example: **Recommended by the Selectmen (5-0-0)**

This format indicates (Votes for, Votes against, and Abstentions*)

*Abstentions indicate that a seated member of a Board declined to vote on a warrant or was not present during the vote.

ARTICLES FOR VOTING

Article #1: Election of Officials

To see what action the Town will take in the election of the following Officers: One (1) Selectman for a the term of one (1) year; Two (2) Selectmen for a term of three (3) years; Three (3) Budget Committee members for a term of three (3) years; Two (2) Cemetery Trustees for a term of three (3) years; Two (2) Library Trustees for a term of three (3) years; Two (2) Planning Board members for a term of three (3) years; One (1) Supervisor of the Checklist for a term of one (1) year; One (1) Trustee of the Trust Funds for a term of three (3) years.

Article #2: Zoning Ordinance Amendment No. 1

Are you in favor of Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Pelham to amend Pelham Zoning Article VII Section 307-41 Special Provisions to increase residential and commercial septic leach field setbacks from wetland areas from 25 feet to 50 feet from poorly drained soils and from 50 feet to 75 feet from very poorly drained soils. These changes are consistent with the State of New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules (Env-Wq 1008.04).

Recommended by the Planning Board (7-0-0)

Article #2 Explanation: *This amendment is to bring the Zoning Ordinance up to the State's requirements of minimum distances from septic leach fields to wetland areas for consistency.*

A YES vote would change the existing set back of 25 feet to 50 feet in poorly drained soils and from 50 feet to 75 feet in very poorly drained soils.

A NO vote would leave the existing setbacks as they are, at 25' in poorly drained soils and 50' in very poorly drained soils.

Article #3: Zoning Ordinance Amendment No. 2

Are you in favor of Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Pelham to add a new article to Pelham's Zoning Ordinance Article TBD Solar Ordinance to permit the regulation of solar energy systems and to support solar energy system usage. This ordinance will allow residential roof top solar installations less than 15KW to be permitted by right in all zoning districts and ground mounted solar systems that are 15KW or less, and 1000 square feet or less will not require Planning Board approval. Any commercial solar energy systems would require application to the Planning Board for Site Plan Review as well as a Conditional Use Permit. All solar energy systems shall obtain building and electrical permits prior to installation.

Recommended by the Planning Board (7-0-0)

Article #3 Explanation: *This ordinance is for the Town of Pelham to recognize New Hampshire statutes pertaining to solar energy systems, specifically RSA 672:1, I, and III-a, as well as RSA 674:17 (I)(j) which encourages access to sunlight and prohibits unreasonable limits imposed on solar energy systems by municipal zoning powers.*

A YES vote would create a new ordinance allowing residential solar installations that are 15KW or less and 1000 square feet or less to be permitted through the Planning Department, not requiring Planning Board approval. Commercial solar energy systems would continue to require Planning Board approval for Site Plan Review and Conditional Use Permit.

A NO vote would not create this new ordinance, therefore all ground mounted solar arrays would require Planning Board approval and residential rooftop solar arrays over 15KW would not require Planning Board approval.

Article #4: Zoning Ordinance Amendment No 3

Are you in favor of Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town of Pelham to add a new article to Pelham's Zoning Ordinance Article TBD Natural Resources Management Ordinance to promote and ensure the orderly development of land within the Town of Pelham to promote public health, safety, and welfare of its residents and to ensure for the future population of the Town that essential municipal services, transportation/roads, and clean water are available and will have sufficient capacity and quality to accommodate new and future development.

Recommended by the Planning Board (7-0-0)

Article #4 Explanation: *The purpose of this ordinance is to allow land use boards to operate more broadly under the authority of 674:35.*

A YES vote would create a new ordinance allowing land use boards the ability to protect and/or preserve the Town's natural resources before any major subdivision (4 lots or more) and/or commercial/business development shall commence.

A NO vote would maintain scope and authority as it currently exists.

Article #5: Police Collective Bargaining Agreement 2023-2027

Shall the Town vote to approve cost items included in the five (5) year Collective Bargaining Agreement ratified by the Board of Selectmen and the Pelham Police, Local 3657 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits and to further raise and appropriate the sum of \$114,110 to fund for the current fiscal, the first year of this agreement, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels? (Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by the Selectmen (5-0-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-0-0)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Cost</u>
2023	\$114,110	\$114,110
2024	\$141,763	\$255,873
2025	\$117,339	\$373,212
2026	\$112,514	\$485,726
2027*	\$145,585	\$631,311

*Including 3 months of 2028

Article #5 Explanation: *The above warrant article would provide funding for a collectively bargained contract between the Town's police officers and (some) civilian employees. The covered employees include all police sergeants, detectives, patrol officers, school resource officers, dispatchers, animal control officer and the records coordinator.*

The proposed contract is between the Town and the Police Department employees. It is a five-year contract that provides cost of living increases of 4% in year 1, 4% in year 2, and 3.5% in years 3-5. The new wage rates will put Pelham more in line with other police departments in the area.

The employees will stop paying a flat rate towards their health insurance benefits and instead will begin paying a percentage of their health insurance benefits. This protects the Town from paying a raising share of benefit costs as the Town wide insurance rates inevitably increase. The new insurance rates are 5% in years 1-2, 6% in year 3, and 7% in years 4-5.

A YES vote would approve the new Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Pelham and the Pelham Police Department.

A NO vote would leave the Police Department without a contract.

Article #6: Operating Budget

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth herein totaling Twenty-One Million, One Hundred and Seventy-Eight Thousand, Four Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars (\$21,178,495)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Nineteen Million, Nine Hundred and Forty-Three Thousand, Eight-Hundred and Ninety-Eight Dollars (\$19,943,898) which is the same as last year with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Recommended by the Selectmen (5-0-0)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-0-0)

<u>Department</u>	<u>Selectmen 2023 Approved</u>	<u>Budcom 2023 Approved</u>
Assessor	\$229,193	\$229,193
Budget Committee	\$2	\$2
Cable Department	\$172,837	\$172,837
Cemetery	\$177,573	\$177,573
Conservation	\$10,700	\$10,700
Debt Service Interest	\$68,881	\$68,881
Debt Service Principal	\$487,416	\$487,416
Elections	\$18,143	\$18,143
Emergency Management	\$10,673	\$10,673
Fire Department	\$2,918,972	\$2,918,972
Health Officer	\$87,956	\$87,956
Health Services	\$73,700	\$73,700
Highway Maintenance	\$2,254,522	\$2,254,522

Human Services	\$75,640	\$75,640
Insurance	\$3,170,326	\$3,170,326
Legal	\$96,000	\$96,000
Library	\$566,655	\$536,656
Parks & Recreation	\$294,414	\$294,414
Planning Dept	\$571,215	\$571,215
Police Department	\$3,734,042	\$3,703,059
Retirement	\$2,421,463	\$2,421,463
Selectmen	\$670,604	\$670,604
Senior Center	\$193,338	\$193,338
Technology	\$374,401	\$374,401
Town Buildings	\$890,764	\$890,764
Town Celebrations	\$24,960	\$24,960
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$319,683	\$319,683
Transfer	\$1,309,845	\$1,309,845
Treasurer	\$15,224	\$15,224
Trust Funds	\$335	\$335
Total	\$21,239,477	\$21,178,495

Article #6 Explanation: *This is the operating budget which the Budget Committee is requesting to support all activities of Town government for 2023. Should this budget vote fail, state law allows a default budget to be established automatically rather than have no budget at all. The budget approved by the budget committee is \$21,178,495. The default budget is 19,943,898, which is last years budget plus dollar amount needed to cover previously voted on warrant articles and contractual increases.*

Article #7: Highway Block Grant

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Forty-Three Thousand, Six Hundred Seventy-One Dollars (\$343,671) for repair, maintenance, purchase of equipment and upgrading of Town roads, to be offset by the State Highway Grant? This will be a non-lapsing account per RSA 32:7, IV. No money to be raised by taxation.

Recommended by the Selectmen (4-0-1)

Recommended by the Budget Committee (9-0-0)

Article #7 Explanation: *This is grant money from the state. It is funded by state gasoline taxes. The Town uses the funds to improve Town roads and to purchase and maintain highway equipment. This has no impact on local property taxes.*

A YES vote would accept the funding granted to the Town of Pelham from the State of New Hampshire.

A NO vote would decline the money from the State of New Hampshire.

Article #8: Town Conservation Area to Town Forest

Shall the Town vote to establish, as Town Forests, pursuant to RSA 31:110-113, the following parcels: tax map 31 lots 11-32, 11-34, and 11-35 (formerly owned by Kleczkowski) and add them to the abutting Blueberry Circle Town Forest? The enlarged Town Forest will total approximately 57 acres. No tax impact. (Majority Vote Required)

Recommended by Forestry Committee
Recommended by the Selectmen (4-1-0)

Article #8 Explanation: *This warrant article is asking Pelham residents to add the Kleczkowski conservation land to the existing Blueberry Circle Town Forest. The property was acquired by the Conservation Commission in 2022. When undeveloped land is purchased by or donated to the Town, either by resident, builder, or other party - it can be deemed a State Forest by vote at Town Meeting.*

A YES vote would accept the lands into the Town Forest, placing them under the supervision and protection of the Forestry Department. They would oversee any trails or required maintenance work such as timber harvesting. This is an added layer of protection for the land and is often used as a way to protect the land from being developed.

A NO vote would leave the land under the care of the Town of Pelham Conservation Commission.

Article #9: Solar Energy Exemption

Shall the Town of Pelham vote to modify the current solar energy exemption pursuant to RSA 72:62 up to 100% of the assessed value of the qualifying equipment as defined in RSA 72:61?

72:61 Definition of Solar Energy Systems. – I. For purposes of an exemption under RSA 72:62 adopted before January 1, 2020, in this subdivision "solar energy system" means a system which utilizes solar energy to heat or cool the interior of a building or to heat water for use in a building and which includes one or more collectors and a storage container. "Solar energy system" also means a system which provides electricity for a building using photovoltaic panels.

Recommended by the Selectmen (3-2-0)

Article #9 Explanation: *In 2021 the NH Board of Land & Tax Appeals (BTLA) issued an order In Re: Town of Ipswich Doc# 30002-20OS, that "all municipalities should measure and list and value in good faith all improvements determined to be taxable real estate, including solar energy systems".*

Until 2022, in Pelham, we had not assessed residential solar arrays. However, we now have them valued at \$1,500 per panel, sometimes adding up to \$60,000+ in value to a property. That is approximately \$1,045 in taxes using the current tax rate. Our current exemption amount, adopted in 1982 is \$10,000.

The proposed 100% solar exemption would allow for that investment and not penalize property owners for doing so. The proposal will NOT apply to a “renewable regeneration facility” per RSA 72:73. That RSA applies to a solar farm facility where there is retail sale of the energy produced.

A YES vote allows a full exemption for the value of the panels.

A NO vote would leave the current exemption where it is, at a total of \$10,000 per property.

Article #10: Elderly Tax Exemption

Shall the Town vote pursuant to RSA 72:39-a and 72:39-b to modify the current Elderly Exemption and Income limits from property tax in the Town of Pelham for qualified taxpayers as follows:

For persons aged 65 to include 74 years of age: \$114,000

For persons 75 to including 79 years of age: \$164,000

For persons 80 years and above: \$212,000

In addition, a qualified taxpayer must have an annual net income of not more than \$48,000 if single and not more than a combined net income of \$58,000 if married and own assets (excluding the value of the person's residence) not more than \$250,000.

Recommended by the Selectmen (5-0-0)

Article #10 Explanation: In an attempt to reflect current market rates and the economy at large, the Assessor's Office is asking to increase the elderly tax exemption to the rates listed above.

The new limits, proposed above, are based on an 8% inflation rate, which was current at the time of drafting the article in October 2022.

A YES vote would increase the tax exemption for the elderly by the rates listed above.

A NO vote would leave the elderly exemption rates as is:

For persons aged 65 to include 74 years of age: \$106,000

For persons 75 to including 79 years of age: \$152,000

For persons 80 years and above: \$196,000

In addition, a qualified taxpayer must have an annual net income of not more than \$44,000 if single and not more than a combined net income of \$54,000 if married and own assets (excluding the value of the person's residence) not more than \$250,000.

Article #11: Blind Exemption

Shall the Town of Pelham vote to modify the current blind exemption per RSA 72:37 from \$15,000 to \$57,800? (Recommended by the Selectmen by a vote of 5 to 0)

Article #11 Explanation: The blind exemption was adopted in Pelham in 1982 was for the minimum statutory limit of \$15,000. The blind exemption is not an income means test; however, the person must be certified by the State Department of Education to be eligible for the exemption. The rate has not been adjusted since 1982, as such, the Assessor's Office is asking to increase the rate to be more in line with the cost of living.

A YES vote would increase the current Blind Exemption from \$15,000 to \$57,800.

A NO vote would leave the exemption at its current level of \$15,000.

Article #12: Re-Adopt the Optional Veterans' Tax Credit (RSA 72:28, II)

Shall the Town of Pelham re-adopt the Optional Veterans' Tax Credit of \$500 pursuant to RSA 72:28, II to include individuals who have not yet been discharged from service in the armed forces?

Recommended by Selectmen (5-0-0)

Article #12 Explanation: *Pelham adopted the Optional Veterans Credit up to \$500 in 2004. This means qualifying Veterans receive a \$500 credit off their tax bill if they apply. New legislation for Veterans under RSAs 72:28 passed in 2022 to include active-duty members of the military. However due to the nature of the language in these RSAs any amendment requires re-adoption of the credit if we are to continue granting the OPTIONAL amount of \$500.*

A YES vote will keep the current Veteran's Tax Credit at \$500.

A NO vote will return to the pre-2004 Veteran's Tax Credit of \$50.

Article #13: Re-Adopt the All Veterans' Tax Credit (RSA 72:28b)

Shall the Town of Pelham re-adopt the All Veterans' Tax Credit of \$500 pursuant to RSA 72:28-b to include individuals who have not yet been discharged from service in the armed forces?

Recommended by the Selectmen (4-1-0)

Article #13 Explanation: *Pelham adopted the All Veterans Credit per RSA 72:28-b in 2017. This means a Veteran may receive a \$500 credit off their tax bill if they apply and qualify. New legislation for Veterans under RSAs 72:28-b passed in 2022 to include active-duty members of the military. However due to the nature of the language in these RSAs any amendment requires re-adoption of the credit if we are to continue granting the credit. It is important to note that any Veteran, regardless of status, will only qualify for ONE \$500 tax credit, of the 2 listed in these warrant articles.*

A YES vote will keep the current Veteran's Tax Credit at \$500.

A NO vote will return to the pre-2004 Veteran's Tax Credit of \$0.

Article #14: Commercial New Construction Tax Exemption

Shall the Town of Pelham vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:81 and enable the Town to grant tax exemptions for new construction performed on commercial or industrial uses. The intent of the exemption authority is to provide incentives to businesses to build, rebuild, modernize, or enlarge within the municipality. The exemption shall apply only for municipal and local school property taxes assessed by the municipality. The exemption will not apply to the entirety of the property value, but only to any increase in assessment which results from the new construction. The period of time for which the property is eligible for exemption is ten years.

The percentage of authorized exemption is as follows:

Year 1 to Year 5, 50% of the increased assessment value as described above;

Year 6, 40% of the increased assessment value as described above;

Year 7, 30% of the increased assessment value as described above;

Year 8, 20% of the increased assessment value as described above;

Year 9 and Year 10, 10% of the increased assessment value as described above;

For purposes of this exemption, the term "new construction" shall mean new structures, or additions, renovations, or improvements to existing structures.

For purposes of this exemption, the term "commercial" shall include retail, wholesale, service and similar uses and the term "industrial" shall mean manufacturing and heavy manufacturing, consumable manufactured goods, lumberyard, timber activities, recycling facility (household wastes), veterinary and large veterinary hospital, and warehouse.

If adopted, this Warrant Article will become effective April 1, 2023 and will remain in effect for five (5) years.

Recommended by the Selectmen (3-2-0)

Article #14 Explanation: The Town of Pelham Board of Selectmen would like to implement a new economic development program known as the "Commercial and Industrial Construction Exemption" (RSA 72:81) by the passage of this warrant article. This is a new construction property tax exemption for commercial and industrial uses (as defined in RSA 72:80). The intent of the exemption is to provide incentives to businesses to build, modernize, or enlarge within the Town.

The details are as follows: the exemption shall apply only to municipal and local school property taxes assessed by the Town. State education and county taxes are excluded from the exemption. The exemption shall be granted for a maximum of fifty percent (50%) of the increase in assessed value attributable to the improvements and shall remain in effect for a maximum period of ten (10) years.

The anticipated effects could include:

- A) Economic growth and increase the Town's tax base;***
- B) Redevelop and revitalize commercial or industrial area(s);***
- C) Prevent or eliminate blight;***
- D) Increase local jobs opportunities.***

As approved, this exemption program shall remain in effect for a maximum of five (5) tax years.

A YES vote would allow the potential tax credit plan to go into effect and be available to qualified, interested parties.

A NO vote prevents the tax credits from being offered.

Article #15: Water Commission Utility District Expansion

Shall the Town vote to expand the current established Water Utility District from those properties that are adjacent to and within five hundred feet (500') of the following two water main line extensions: 1) an extension of the existing Marsh Road water line beyond Pelham High School along Marsh Road to the Intersection of Mammoth Road; and 2) an extension of the existing Pennichuck water line beginning at the Nashua Road/Main Street intersection, traveling East along Main Street to the intersection of Bridge Street, and then extending down Bridge Street to the Dracut town line to the entire Town of Pelham, New Hampshire per NH RSA 31:134-149; and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appoint up to two (2) alternate members for a term of two (2) years to the five (5) member Water Commission?

Recommended by the Selectmen (5-0-0)

Article #15 Explanation: When the Water Commission was formed by Town Meeting in 2019, it was created with the specific intent of dealing with residual MBTE issues in and around Bridge Street and sections of Marsh Road. Since the creation of the Water Commission, new, continuing,

or worsening issues have come to the Town's attention, creating a need to expand the scope and focus of the existing Water Commission.

A YES vote would allow the Water Commission to attend to issues outside of the ones initially indicated when it was formed in 2019.

A NO vote would keep the mission and focus of the Water Commission the same, which would limit their ability to work in other areas of Town on other water issues.

Petition Article #16:

Shall the Town vote to adopt the following provision pertaining to elections:

Any and all town or school board regular or special election voting shall be by paper ballot only and all ballots shall be hand counted. The use of any and all electronic ballot counting devices shall immediately cease and are prohibited for all voting purposes. This removes any and perceived or actual authority under RSA 656:40 for selectmen or any other governing body of the Town of Pelham, NH to approve on a trial or permanent basis the leasing, use or experimentation of any electronic ballot counting devices.

Not recommended by Selectmen

Petition Article #16 Explanation: *It is the policy and practice of the Town to not submit explanations for citizen's petitions.*

Given under our hands this 30th day of January 2023,

Heather Corbett, Chair - 2023
Jaie Bergeron, Vice Chair - 2023
Kevin Cote - 2023
Jason Croteau - 2025
Charlene Takesian - 2025