

Specific Tax Impacts for FY 2019-20 for Sanborn Regional School District

The voters will go to the polls on Tuesday, March 12, between 8 AM and 8 PM, to vote on budgets and warrants for Kingston and Newton's Sanborn Regional School District (SRSD), and for the towns.

In New Hampshire, local voters have an extraordinary amount of control over their local spending and the resulting property tax. In its "Live Free or Die" traditions, local voters approve local budgets and other warrants.

In the past only 30% or even fewer have taken part in this local control. One School Board member won in a recount by only 9 votes. To encourage maximum voter participation, NKTA seeks to inform voters of the issues at hand, and to encourage them to exercise their voting franchises.

NKTA's current concentration is on SRSD voting options, because the SRSD accounts for 70-80% of local property taxes. Tax-setting by informed participating voters is very important.

NKTA has published articles on the individual District warrants in recent weeks. If you missed any, you can find them on the website at www.NKTA.vpweb.com, and on the Newton-Kingston Taxpayers Facebook page.

This article is a summary of the estimated tax impacts of the proposed changes.

The focus will be on the impact in Newton, because the recent revaluation in Kingston makes year-to-year comparisons difficult and unclear.

For the current tax year, the District returned \$1.27 per thousand in tax credit to Newton. For the first time in many years, there was a tax decrease in Newton. In Kingston, the credit also restrained the amount of increase.

For the coming fiscal year, the default budget for the schools is increasing by \$470,000. The direct causes are an 8% increase in Special Education tuition and increases in insurance. At the same time, tighter budgets and lower enrollment mean lower revenues coming in from other sources. This creates a 'perfect storm' where the \$470,000 budget increase is estimated to approach the amount of the mil rate credit for the current year. The result is that the \$381 property tax reduction on a house assessed at \$300,000 is taken away by the default budget, and the two-year result is only a \$54 tax reduction.

The proposed budget is \$0.23 more, with additions for a tuition increase at the Seacoast School of Technology, some required technology investment, and some new books for elementary grade students.

In addition, there are warrants for new staff contracts and for funding Ice Hockey, totaling an additional \$0.52 in Newton, \$0.41 in Kingston. The total increase of all warrants is \$1.84 in Newton, and \$1.64 in Kingston.

Over a 2-year period, normalizing for the \$1.27 tax credit (Newton) this year, the proposed increase is \$0.57 in 2 years. The \$300,000 property tax bill will increase by an estimated \$552 in Newton, \$492 in Kingston, should all School District warrants pass, for the 2-years, \$171. This does not include the town increases in property tax. Kingston is a similar net tax picture.

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