



TOWN OF THOMASTON MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 299, Thomaston, ME 04861

(207) 354-6107

Web Address: <https://www.town.thomaston.me.us>

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ABSENTEE BALLOTS AVAILABLE AS OF OCTOBER 9TH

Request your ballots online at: <https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl>, call the Town Office at (207) 354-6107, or stop by the Town Office at 170 Main Street, Thomaston. The last day to vote absentee without a special circumstance is **Thursday, November 1, 2018.**

Vote at the Polls on Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Polls are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 10 Watts Lane, Thomaston, Maine. For the full ballots and candidates, sample ballots are available at the Town Office and online on the Town of Thomaston web site at: <https://www.town.thomaston.me.us>

Town of Thomaston Referendum Questions:

ARTICLE 2: Shall the voters authorize the Town to renovate the Lura Libby Facility and to relocate the Town Office, the Police Department, the Recreation Department and the Town's Food Pantry to the Lura Libby Facility as renovations are completed?

ARTICLE 3: Shall the voters appropriate and authorize the Town to borrow not more than \$1,100,000 by issuing general obligation bonds and/or notes of the Town, which may be callable, the proceeds to be used to finance the renovations to the Lura Libby Facility and related costs of relocation discussed in Article 2, above?

After two years of analysis, the Town will vote on the reuse of the former Lura Libby Facility accepted by the voters in November of 2016. A **NO** vote on articles **2 & 3** will initiate "to be determined" fate of the Lura Libby Facility currently costing approximately \$65,000 per year in operation and capital maintenance liability, until it is yet again brought to the voters for determination of its outcome.

A **YES** vote on articles **2 & 3** initiates the relocation of all Town Offices from Watts Hall at a bond of \$1,100,000 to be borrowed. The bond operating cost and annual capital maintenance are estimated at \$172,000 per year resulting in a tax of \$48 per \$100,000 in property valuation.

The Board of Selectpersons will then determine the ultimate fate of Watts Hall to be submitted to the voters: 1.) To maintain the use and rent the first floor retail spaces, or 2.) Condo and sell the five first floor retail spaces and maintain the second floor for community use or 3.) Sell the Watts Hall Facility.

The Standing Municipal Facility Committee has analyzed these three options for estimated tax increases for each \$100,000 in property valuation: Rental \$36, Condo sale \$32 and sale \$19.

Each of the respective three options can be reduced further by an estimated \$14 per \$100,000 if the current \$50,000 Facility Reserve raised annually is budgetarily used to offset the cost. The rental then is reduced to \$22, condo sale \$18 and sale of Watts Hall \$5 per \$100,000 in property valuation.

An overview and PowerPoint® presentation of the proposed Municipal Facility relocation is available on the Town Website: <https://www.town.thomaston.me.us>.

ARTICLE 4: Shall an amendment entitled “Proposed Changes to Chapter 7-Land Use & Development Ordinance” be enacted?

ARTICLE 5: “Shall Chapter 1 *Thomaston Government & Organization*, Article II, Section 102 *Police* be amended by changing and moving Subsection 102.3.4 *Control of Annoyance of Barking or Howling Dogs* adopted May 9, 1977 to be Subsection 102.4.6 so that it follows Subsection 102.4.5 *Control of Dogs* and shall the new Subsection 102.4.7 *Dog Waste Ordinance* be adopted?

ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town appropriate from the unassigned fund balance the amount of \$11,925.15 to fund annual stipends for the Select Board?

ARTICLE 7: Shall the voters authorize the completion of the last phase of the Thomaston Business Block Redevelopment Project initiated in 1997?

ARTICLE 8: Shall the voters appropriate and authorize the Town to borrow not more than \$280,000 and accept grant funds of up to \$250,000 from the Northern Border Regional Commission to complete the last phase of the Thomaston Business Block Redevelopment Project by issuing general obligation bonds and/or notes of the Town, which may be callable, the proceeds to be used to finance the Thomaston Business Block Redevelopment Project?

BUSINESS BLOCK REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT –a detailed explanation of Articles 7 & 8

The Town has been working for several years to encourage business in the downtown area by making upgrades and improvements to the infrastructure. The last phase of this project will construct a plaza (a wide sidewalk) with granite curb, from the Alley to Beechwood Street along the back side of the Business Block; mark parking spaces along the plaza, install streetlights along the plaza, in the parking lot and along Starr Street; landscape the area with trees, shrubs and planters; provide benches and bicycle racks. All this will make patronizing the businesses easier with better traffic flow and better parking.

The cost to complete the project is estimated at \$530,000. The Town has received a \$250,000 matching grant from the Northern Borders Regional Commission. For every dollar the Town puts into the project, the grant will give the Town \$0.94. To get the whole grant, the Town will need to provide \$280,000.

The repayment on a \$280,000 loan for 20 years at current interest rates is about \$20,000 per year.

WHAT ARE WE VOTING ON?

State of Maine Candidates for U.S. Senator, Representative to Congress, Governor, State Senator, Representative to the Legislature, Judge of Probate, Sheriff, District Attorney, County Commissioner, and County Budget Committee.

State of Maine Referendum Questions:

Question 1: Citizen Initiative

Do you want to create the Universal Home Care Program to provide home-based assistance to people with disabilities and senior citizens, regardless of income, funded by a new 3.8% tax on individuals and families with Maine wage and adjusted gross income above the amount subject to Social Security taxes, which is \$128,400 in 2018?

Question 2: Bond Issue

Do you favor a \$30,000,000 bond issue to improve water quality, support the planning and construction of wastewater treatment facilities and assist homeowners whose homes are served by substandard or malfunctioning wastewater treatment systems?

Question 3: Bond Issue

Do you favor a \$106,000,000 bond issue, including \$101,000,000 for construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of highways and bridges and for facilities and equipment related to ports, piers, harbors, marine transportation, freight and passenger railroads, aviation, transit and bicycle and pedestrian trails, to be used to match an estimated \$137,000,000 in federal and other funds, and \$5,000,000 for the upgrade of municipal culverts at stream crossings?

Question 4: Bond Issue

Do you favor a \$49,000,000 bond issue to be matched by at least \$49,000,000 in private and public funds to modernize and improve the facilities and infrastructure of Maine's public universities in order to expand workforce development capacity and to attract and retain students to strengthen Maine's economy and future workforce?

Question 5: Bond Issue

Do you favor a \$15,000,000 bond issue to improve educational programs by upgrading facilities at all 7 of Maine's community colleges in order to provide Maine people with access to high-skill, low-cost technical and career education.

REMINDER TO REGISTER YOUR DOG

It's that time of year again to register your dog. Please visit us at the Thomaston Town Office at 170 Main Street to register your dog. We will need to see proof of rabies vaccination from your veterinarian. **Please stop in by the close of business on January 31, 2019 to avoid the \$25.00 state late fee.**



According to Maine State law, 7 MRSA§ 3923-A, if your pet has been spayed/or neutered, dog licenses are \$6.00 each. If your pet has not been spayed/or neutered, dog licenses are \$11.00 each. You also have the option of licensing your dog online through the State of Maine Dog Licensing Online Service at:

https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog_license/index.pl

Your dog licensing fees support:

Local Animal Control Officers and State Humane Agents

Investigation of animal cruelty complaints and enforcement of animal welfare laws

Compliance with rabies vaccination of dogs Care for sick and injured stray animals

Return of lost dogs to their owners

UPDATE FOR CLAMMERS

As of 09/30/2018, the restriction for digging on Conservation Closure days for Georges River Commercial License holders has been lifted for the fall of 2018 starting October 1st, 2018. All Local and Non-resident license holders are free to harvest on their conservation day from October 1st, 2018 till April 1st, 2019.

Ian Clark, Shellfish Warden ~ Georges River Regional Shellfish Organization

TOWN OF THOMASTON
 P O BOX 299
 THOMASTON, ME 04861



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH
AMERICAN LEGION
BEHIND BUSINESS BLOCK
8AM-8PM



October & November



MON HOURS 8-5	TUE HOURS 8-5	WED HOURS 8-5	THU HOURS 8-5	FRI HOURS 8-2
15-Oct	16-Oct Planning Board 6pm Watts Hall	17-Oct Comp. Plan Committee 6:30 pm Watts Hall	18-Oct Solid Waste Meeting Owls Head Town Office	19-Oct
22-Oct Select Board Workshop & Regular Meeting 6 pm & 7 pm Watts Hall	23-Oct	24-Oct	25-Oct	26-Oct
29-Oct	30-Oct	31-Oct	1-Nov Historic Research Group -7 pm Watts Hall	2-Nov
5-Nov Shellfish Committee 6:30 pm Watts Hall	6-Nov Ambulance Dept. Meeting 6:30 pm Fire Station ELECTION DAY	7-Nov	8-Nov GRRSM Meeting 6 pm Watts Hall	9-Nov
12-Nov TOWN OFFICE CLOSED VETERANS' DAY	13-Nov Watts Block Trustees 7 pm Watts Hall	14-Nov Comp. Plan Committee 6:30 pm Watts Hall	15-Nov Solid Waste Meeting Owls Head Town Office	16-Nov

ALL MEETINGS LISTED ABOVE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND MAY BE CANCELLED IF THERE IS NO BUSINESS