

Town of West Paris
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Public Notice

This public notice is being published at the direction of the West Paris Board of Selectmen.

At an emergency Selectboard meeting held on May 30th, 2024, the West Paris Selectboard signed the warrant and Notice of Election for the FY 25 MSAD #17 budget validation referendum. This referendum vote will take place on June 11th, 2024 at the West Paris Town Office from 8am to 8pm. Absentee ballots can also be attained by contacting the Town Clerk's Office. This vote will be the final chance to approve or turn down the proposed MSAD #17's budget.

During this meeting, the Selectboard discussed the proposed increase to MSAD #17's budget. If the proposed MSAD #17 cost center budget passes with the addition encumbrances, the Town of West Paris' MSAD #17 assessment will be \$1,487,864.06 over last years \$1,188,226.00. That is a total increase of \$299,638.06.

Given the unprecedented increase proposed by this year's MSAD #17 budget, the West Paris Selectboard voted to "not support" the MSAD #17 budget. The Selectboard recommend West Paris voters also consider "not supporting" the proposed MSAD #17 budget by voting "NO" on June 11th.

To be clear, the West Paris Selectboard support the functions of MSAD #17 and recognize the importance of delivering quality education. Voting to "not support" the MSAD #17 budget is not a statement against MSAD #17. This vote is against the unprecedented MSAD #17 budget increase. The West Paris Board of Selectmen simply ask that MSAD #17 produce a more realistic and fiscally responsible budget.

What happens if the MSAD #17 budget is voted down? In the event the MSAD #17 budget does not pass prior to July 1st, simply put, MSAD #17 will continue to operate using last years approved budget until a final budget is approved. For reference, see State of Maine Title 20-A §1487: "Failure to pass budget":

www.legislature.maine.gov/statutes/20-A/title20-Asec1487.html

On behalf of the West Paris Selectboard, thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,
Joy Downing
Town Manager