

We are providing the information below to help explain the different ballot questions voters will be asked to weigh in on this Town Meeting Day (March 6). The first three ballot questions represent binding votes for the City, while the remaining four are advisory items.

1: APPROVAL OF SCHOOL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

This question asks voters whether or not to approve the Fiscal Year 2019 Burlington School District budget. For more: <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/sites/default/files/Election%20Warning%20-%20Signed.pdf>.

2: FORMATION OF REGIONAL EMERGENCY DISPATCH CENTER

This question asks voters whether or not to approve creating a regional dispatch center with the goal of better coordinating emergency services among seven neighboring communities in Chittenden County. Chittenden County has been considering the creation of regional dispatch for over 50 years. The public safety leaders in Burlington, Colchester, Milton, Shelburne, South Burlington, Williston, and Winooski all support a Yes vote on Question 2.

In the process of reviewing the data and drafting the agreement, the JSC determined that a regional dispatch center, especially when combined with a regional public safety answering point (911 call center), would avoid a transfer to local dispatch, reducing response time for many 911 calls by about 70 seconds per call (see <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/emergency-management/regional-dispatch/#implementation> for more information).

Should voters approve the ballot item, it will authorize the Union Municipal District to form, but will not obligate towns to pay or receive services. Additional details will be developed to support the consolidation and operation of services. Municipalities that join the District would then need an additional vote of their elected body to begin to pay for and receive services from the new entity. For more: <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/emergency-management/regional-dispatch/>.

3: ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

This question asks voters whether or not to approve a new \$6.1 million infrastructure bond paid for entirely by the University of Vermont and Champlain College as part of two new milestone agreements with the institutions to support the City's 10-Year Sustainable Infrastructure Plan. There will be no anticipated cost to Burlington taxpayers for this bond.

If voters approve the ballot question, UVM and Champlain would contribute collectively \$8.9 million over 20 years to cover all principal and interest on a projected \$6.1 million, 2018 bond. The funding would go toward maintaining the City's streets, sidewalks, and other core infrastructure. UVM and Champlain College already make contributions to support the provision of City services in a variety of ways. The institutions' agreement to make new investment reflects the reality that these institutions both impact and value City infrastructure like roads and sidewalks.

For more: <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/Press/City-of-Burlington-Reaches-Agreement-with-University-of-Vermont-Champlain-College-for-New>.

View the UVM Agreement here:

[https://www.boarddocs.com/vt/burlingtonvt/Board.nsf/files/AVFVCJ8018E4/\\$file/City%20-%20UVM%20Agreement%20-%20Capital%20Plan%20%201-28-18%20\(Final\).pdf](https://www.boarddocs.com/vt/burlingtonvt/Board.nsf/files/AVFVCJ8018E4/$file/City%20-%20UVM%20Agreement%20-%20Capital%20Plan%20%201-28-18%20(Final).pdf).

View the Champlain College agreement here:

[https://www.boarddocs.com/vt/burlingtonvt/Board.nsf/files/AVFVES806B6A/\\$file/Champlain-COB%20Agreement%201-25-18_CC%20Signed.pdf](https://www.boarddocs.com/vt/burlingtonvt/Board.nsf/files/AVFVES806B6A/$file/Champlain-COB%20Agreement%201-25-18_CC%20Signed.pdf).

4: ADVISORY BALLOT QUESTION RE: CLIMATE ACTION

This question asks voters whether or not to advise the Governor and Members of the General Assembly of the State of Vermont to pursue more policies and programs to achieve 90% renewable energy, and to ensure renewable energy is fair and equitable to all residents, regardless of their wage or location.

As an advisory item, were this to pass with a majority, the Governor and Members of the General Assembly would take the recommendation under advisement.

5: ADVISORY BALLOT QUESTION RE: LOCAL OPTION TO FUND PERPETUALLY AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN BURLINGTON

Voters are here asked whether or not to advise the City Council to identify additional funding sources to benefit the Burlington Housing Trust Fund, a fund that supports the City's non-profit housing organizations in building more affordable housing.

As an advisory item, were this to pass with a majority, the City Council would take the recommendation under advisement.

6: ADVISORY BALLOT QUESTION RE: VERMONT AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASING OF F-35S AT BTV

This question asks voters whether or not to advise the City Council to request the cancellation of the planned basing of the F-35 at the Burlington International Airport (BTV) and request instead alternative equipment with lower noise and a high safety record.

As an advisory item, were this to pass with a majority, the City Council would take the recommendation under advisement.

7. ADVISORY BALLOT QUESTION RE: RAISING THE AGE OF SALE FOR TOBACCO PRODUCTS FROM 18 TO 21

This question asks voters whether or not to advise the Governor and members of the Vermont General Assembly to support raising the age of sale for tobacco products in Vermont from 18 to 21 years of age.

As an advisory item, were this to pass with a majority, the City Council would take the recommendation under advisement.

The City encourages you to weigh in on these and other important issues this Town Meeting Day, March 6, 2018.