
Support Local News.

We've been with you throughout the pandemic, the vaccinations and the reopening of schools, businesses and communities. There's never been more of a need for the kind of local, independent and unbiased journalism that The Day produces.

Please support our work by subscribing today.

SUBSCRIBE (<https://home.theday.com/portal/TD21D&CSReferrer=localnews>)

North Stonington budgets passed at second referendum

Published June 29, 2021 12:12PM | Updated June 29, 2021 5:45PM

Melina Khan

North Stonington — Residents approved the proposed school and town budgets for 2021-22 at a second referendum Monday.

The budgets totaled \$21,081,830, a reduction of \$103,878 from the initial budget rejected by voters.

Among the cuts were \$934 in government operating costs and \$9,500 in capital expenditures. The education budget was also decreased by \$92,744 due to staffing changes, bringing the total increase to 1.13% over last year's budget. The Board of Finance previously recommended no more than a 1.3% increase.

The \$6.8 million general government budget was approved 407-284 while the \$14.2 million education budget passed 398-287.

The budget reduced the tax rate from 29.5 to 28.6 mills.

The first budget proposal for the 2021-22 fiscal year was rejected at a May 17 referendum when about 11% of the town's registered voters cast ballots. Monday's referendum drew a turnout of about 15%.

Officials attributed the first budget failure in part to low voter turnout and looked to increase advertising efforts for Monday's referendum. Part of the efforts included sending a direct mail reminder to every resident in town and social media posts.

Volunteers also placed signs around town reading "budget vote today," an updated version of the "please vote today" signs used for previous budget votes. The change was an effort to be clearer for residents who may not know what the vote was for, First Selectman Mike Urgo said.

Urgo said he "would like to see everyone come out to vote" but that he is glad the town will start the new fiscal year on July 1 with an approved budget, particularly so tax bills can be sent out on time.

STORIES THAT MAY INTEREST YOU



In The Times: Contributors take time to celebrate (/local-news/20210929/in-times-contributors-take-time-to-celebrate)

A week and a half ago, I invited all Times columnists, freelancers and contributors to a little party at the house that Libby Friedman and I share in Waterford. Amazingly, most of these unassuming community leaders showed up on a beautiful September day to drink a glass of wine, sip on some soda...



Butterflies flit in the Harkness gardens (/local-news/20210928/butterflies-flit-in-harkness-gardens)

A monarch butterfly takes off from a flower in the picking garden Tuesday at Harkness Memorial State Park in Waterford.



Land trust looking for town to close on \$1.65 million deal (/local-news/20210928/land-trust-looking-for-town-to-close-on-165-million-deal)

The purchase would preserve more than 120 acres off Hathaway Road, including roughly 3,000 feet of waterfront on Pattagansett Lake and the Pattagansett River.

SEAT bus drivers call for better protections amid 'hostile situations' (/local-news/20210928/seat-bus-drivers-call-for-better-protections-amid-hostile-situations)

SEAT's union called on SEAT to "provide better protection and stronger workplace violence prevention measures to ensure the safety of transit workers and riders."