

**WARRANT AND NOTICE OF ELECTION
TO CALL MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 54 REFERENDUM
(20-A M.R.S. §§ 1501-04)**

TO: Tina M. Schlemmer, a resident of Maine School Administrative District No. 54, composed of the Towns of Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock, Skowhegan, and Smithfield, State of Maine.

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby ordered to serve upon the municipal clerks of each of the municipalities within Maine School Administrative District No. 54, namely, the Towns of Canaan, Cornville, Mercer, Norridgewock, Skowhegan, and Smithfield, an attested copy of this warrant and notice of election. Service shall be in hand within three (3) days of the date of this warrant and notice of election. The municipal clerks of the above municipalities shall immediately notify the respective municipal officers. The municipal officers shall meet forthwith and countersign this warrant and notice of election. The municipal officers shall provide below for the respective municipal clerks to post or have posted this warrant and notice of election.

**TOWN OF MERCER
MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 54 REFERENDUM
WARRANT AND NOTICE OF ELECTION**

Somerset County, ss.

State of Maine

TO: Nancy Gove, Municipal Clerk of the Town of Mercer: You are hereby required in the name of the State of Maine to notify the voters of this municipality of the election described in this warrant and notice of election.

TO THE VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF MERCER: You are hereby notified that a Maine School Administrative District No. 54 referendum election will be held at the Mercer Town Office, 1015 Beech Hill Road in the Town of Mercer on Tuesday, June 14, 2022 for the purpose of determining the following questions:

Question 1: Do you favor authorizing the School Board of Maine School Administrative District No. 54 (the "District ") to issue bonds or notes in the name of the District for school construction purposes in an amount not to exceed \$75,338,985 (the "Bonds") to construct and equip a new Early Childhood through Grade 5 elementary school, including a replacement bus garage, to be located in the Town of Skowhegan at the Proposed Site described below (the "Project"); to acquire and convey such additional real estate interests as the School Board deems necessary for the development of the Project; and to accept grants and donations for the Project ("Project Gifts") as described below?

The following Project information is provided as part of this Question 1:

- A. Operating Costs. The District estimates \$250,000 in annual net savings in operating costs attributable to the Project during each of the first two years.
- B. Responsibility for Bond Payments. The Project budget is \$75,338,985. The state-funded portion is \$70,898,413 (94.1%) and the non-state-funded portion is \$4,440,572 (5.9%). The District is responsible for the local share of annual principal and interest payments for the Project included in the total cost of education appropriated pursuant to section 15690, subsection 1, if any, and for the annual principal and interest payments for the non-state-funded portion of the Project.
- C. Replacement/Repurposing of Existing Schools. The Project will replace both the existing Margaret Chase Smith Elementary School and North Elementary School, which will be demolished. Bloomfield Elementary School will be repurposed for alternative and special education programming. Canaan Elementary School will become a Pre-K through Grade 2 school.
- D. Proposed Site. The proposed site ("Proposed Site") will include: (i) for the new elementary school, the current site of the Margaret Chase Smith Elementary School (7.89 acres) and adjoining land currently owned by the Town of Skowhegan (17.51 acres); and (ii) for the new bus garage, the current site of North Elementary School. The District has an option to purchase Town land which includes Memorial Field. The Town has agreed to use sale proceeds from this land to build replacement field and recreational improvements on other land currently owned by the Town.
- E. Project Gifts. The Kennebec Valley Community Action Program ("KVCAP") has committed to raise funds that will support the non-state funded portion of the Project. Receiving the goal of \$3,000,000 in cash gifts would reduce the District's bonding for non-state funded Project costs to \$1,440,572. The District will use KVCAP Project grants and gifts that the District receives before the District makes Project bonding commitments to reduce the amount of local bonds the District issues for the Project. The District will use KVCAP Project grants and gifts that the District receives after the District makes Project bonding commitments to pay annual debt service on those local bonds. All Project bonds and notes will be general obligations of the District because Project construction costs will be incurred before pledges intended for the Project are fulfilled.

Question 2: Do you favor authorizing the School Board of Maine School Administrative District No. 54 (the "District") to issue bonds and other evidences of indebtedness in the name of the District in an amount not to exceed \$780,000 through the State of Maine's zero interest rate/loan forgiveness School Revolving Renovation Fund Program to construct and install an elevator in compliance with ADA accessibility requirements at Skowhegan Area High School (the "High School Elevator Project")?

- A. Zero Interest/Loan Forgiveness Program: The Maine Department of Education has approved the District for loans in the amount of \$780,000 through the State's zero

interest rate/loan forgiveness School Revolving Renovation Fund Program for the High School Elevator Project.

- B. Loan Forgiveness: The Maine Department of Education will forgive 62.72% (up to an estimated \$489,216) of the total approved loan amount.
- C. Interest Free Loan. The District will be obligated to repay 37.28% (up to an estimated \$290,784) of the total approved loan amount over a ten-year term. The State of Maine has agreed to lend these funds and to permit repayment at zero interest.

The polls must be opened at 8:00 A.M. and closed at 8:00 P.M.

The Registrar of Voters will hold office hours while the polls are open to correct any error in or change a name or address on the voting list, to accept the registration of any person eligible to vote, and to accept new enrollments.

A person who is not registered as a voter may not vote in any election.

[Warrant signature page follows]

This Warrant given under our hand this day, May 11, 2022 at Skowhegan, Maine.

Lynnda N. Quinn

Amy Rouse

W. Howard

Jan A. Kumbro

Mark A. Redwood

Sandra Buder

D. Gibson

W. P. P. P.

W. P. P. P.

W. P. P. P.

W. P. P. P.

W. P. P. P.

Paul [unclear]

[unclear]

[unclear]

[unclear]

Kathy Wilk

Jennifer Poirer

[unclear]

A majority of the School Board of Maine School Administrative District No. 54

A true copy of the Warrant and Notice of Election, attest:

Tina M. Schlemmer

Tina M. Schlemmer
Resident of
Maine School Administrative District No. 54

Countersigned this 16 day of May, 2022 at the Town of Mercer, Maine.

[unclear]

[unclear]

[unclear]

Mary [unclear]

A majority of the municipal officers of the Town of Mercer

A true copy of the Warrant and Notice of Election, attest:

Nancy Gove

Nancy Gove, Municipal Clerk
Town of Mercer

RETURN

Somerset County, ss.

State of Maine

TO: The School Board of Maine School Administrative District No. 54

May 12, 2022

Pursuant to the within warrant and notice of election, directed to me, I have served in hand upon the municipal clerk of the Town of Mercer, an attested copy of this warrant and notice of election, directing the municipal officers of said municipality to call a Maine School Administrative District No. 54 referendum at said time and place and for the purposes therein stated.

Tina M. Schlemmer

Tina M. Schlemmer

Resident of

Maine School Administrative District No. 54

RETURN

Somerset County, ss.

State of Maine

TO: The municipal officers of the Town of Mercer

I certify that I have notified the voters of the Town of Mercer of the time and place of the Maine School Administrative District No. 54 referendum by posting an attested copy of the within warrant and notice of election as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION OF POSTING</u>
<u>5/16/22</u>	<u>3:00</u>	<u>Mercer Town Office</u>
<u>5/16/22</u>	<u>3:00</u>	<u>Shaw Library</u>
<u>5/16/22</u>	<u>3:00</u>	<u>Christy's Store</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

being public and conspicuous places in said municipality and being at least seven days next prior to election day.

Dated at the Town of Mercer: May 16, 2022

Nancy Gove

Nancy Gove, Municipal Clerk

Town of Mercer, Maine