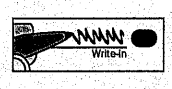
Sample Absentee Ballot
Town Special Election
September 8, 2026
Rye, NH

Instructions
To Vote:
To vote, completely fill in the oval next to your choice.

To Vote for a Write-in:
To vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, write the person's name on the "Write-in" line and completely fill in the oval next to the line.



Article 1

To see if the Town will vote: to designate the Goss Farm Barn as a wildlife-free municipal building in perpetuity for public use, educational programs, agricultural interpretation, community activities, and preservation of Town property; authorize the prevention of the nesting, roosting, habitation or occupancy of wildlife within the Goss Farm Barn; authorize Town officials to take all lawful and necessary measures to prevent wildlife entry and reoccupation of the building; and authorize the use of professionally recommended exclusion, deterrence, removal, and wildlife-management practices, consistent with all applicable Federal and State laws, in order to preserve the barn as a safe, sanitary, publicly accessible facility for current and future generations. ***(Majority vote required.)***

Yes ◯
No ◯

Article 2

To see if the Town shall vote to adopt the proposed Bird Conservation Ordinance establishing criteria and requirements to protect birds and bird habitat in the care, protection, preservation, and use of Town-owned lands and structures. ***(Majority vote required.)***

Chapter 158 Protection of Migratory Bird Colonies on Town-Owned Lands

§ 158-2 Authority.

This chapter was adopted, by Special Town Meeting, under the provisions of New Hampshire RSA 31:39, I (a), which is made a part hereto.

§ 158-2 Purpose.

This chapter is adopted for the purpose of ensuring the protection of migratory bird colonies on Town-owned lands, in recognition of migratory birds' immense benefits for agriculture, pest control, and recreation. These benefits are at risk due to dramatic recent declines in migratory bird populations.

§ 158-3 Town-owned conservation land.

Town-owned conservation land as stated in this chapter includes those lands, and any structures thereupon, purchased for conservation, open space preservation, or agricultural purposes, including those under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen and all boards and commissions of the Town.

§ 158-4 Migratory birds.

Migratory birds as stated in this chapter shall include all birds protected by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act at 16 U.S.C. 703-712. The current list of protected species may be found at 50 CFR 10.13.

§ 158-5 Bird colony.

Bird colony as stated in this chapter includes a congregation of one or more species of migratory birds that nest or roost in proximity at a particular location (e.g., herons, egrets, swallows, martins) and their nest structures, both during and outside the breeding season.

§ 158-6 Colony habitat.

Colony habitat as stated in this chapter means a specific location where a bird colony has historically existed or is likely to exist.

§ 158-7 Disturbance to bird colony or colony habitat prohibited.

Activities likely to result in disturbance to a bird colony or colony habitat on Town-owned conservation land are hereby prohibited, with the following exceptions: (A) When the Town's Health Officer and Board of Selectmen acting together as the Town's Board of Health find the action is necessary due to a demonstrable risk to public health or safety that cannot be otherwise mitigated; or (B) When the activity is necessary to meet the requirements of federal or state law or easement terms, and it is accompanied by mitigation using established best practices to avoid net loss to local bird populations from bird mortality or failed nesting.

§ 158-8 Severability.

Should any section or provision of this regulation be held to be invalid or unconstitutional such holding shall not affect, impair or invalidate any other section or provision of this regulation, and to such end all sections and provisions of this regulation are declared to be severable.

§ 158-9 Effective Date.

This article shall take effect upon its passage.

Yes ◯
No ◯

Article 3

To see if the Town will vote to change the method of selecting Conservation Commission members from appointed to elected, as provided in RSA 36-A:3, II(a), whereby all conservation commission positions shall be filled for one, two, and three-year terms commencing at the next regular town election (2027 Town Meeting), the terms of one-third of the conservation commission members shall expire each year, and successors shall be elected for terms of three years each. ***(Majority vote required.)***

Yes ◯
No ◯

Article 4

Shall the Town adopt the following resolution: To keep the trails on Town land open, in perpetuity, as were in place prior to the Rye Conservation Commission vote on April 30, 2026, to decommission said trails. The exception being that the Cedar Run "Red" trail that is located partially on private land shall be rerouted off of said private land so as to be located on Town land and which shall thus be retained via this new route. ***(Majority vote required.)***

Yes ◯
No ◯