



**YOU CAN NOW REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT ONLINE FOR NOVEMBER'S ELECTION.**

**IT'S EASY! JUST GO TO:**  
[apps.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl](https://apps.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl)  
**to request your ballot today.**

**This service is available from the Maine.gov website until 5:00pm on October 29, 2020.**

### Notice Regarding Homestead, Veteran, Blind and Parsonage Exemptions

MRSA Title 36: In determining the local assessed value of the exemption, the assessor shall multiply the amount of the exemption by the ratio of current just value upon which the assessment is based as furnished in the assessor's annual return to the State Tax Assessor.

For the 2020-2021 assessment, the Town of Raymond certified the maximum ratio available of 97% to the State of Maine. Therefore, all exemptions noted above have been adjusted by 3% to the amounts shown on your tax bill to comply with State Law.

The adjusted amounts are as follows:  
 Homestead: \$24,250  
 Veterans: \$5,820  
 Blind: \$3,880  
 Parsonage: \$19,400



### Another chance to enjoy the Raymond Village Community Church **POT ROAST SUPPER** *THIS SATURDAY, SEPT. 19*

Same good food, pot roast and gravy, potatoes, green beans, carrots, a roll, and a brownie for \$10.  
**MEALS ARE TAKE-OUT ONLY.**

**We are taking orders for meals for pick up between 5:00 and 6:30PM Saturday, Sept. 19th**  
 They will be hot and ready to take home!

To order your meals call the RVCC office at 655-7749 and press #2 to leave a message with your name, number of meals and time you will pick up.

Or if you prefer you can send an e-mail to:  
[office@rvccme.org](mailto:office@rvccme.org)  
 with the information.



# ★ ★ ★ RSU WITHDRAWAL UPDATES AND INFORMATION ★ ★ ★

THE RSU WITHDRAWAL COMMITTEE HAS SET UP INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS FOR RESIDENTS TO ASK QUESTIONS AND GET ACCURATE INFORMATION REGARDING WHAT IT WOULD LOOK LIKE IF WE WERE TO WITHDRAWAL FROM RSU #14, OF WHICH RAYMOND HAS BEEN A PART OF FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS.

### RESIDENTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE ON THIS ISSUE IN NOVEMBER, SO IT IS VITAL TO BE INFORMED AND GET AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT WHAT THAT WOULD MEAN FOR RAYMOND.

Three meetings have already taken place and can be viewed on the Town of Raymond website. Please join in on the remaining meetings so you can ask questions and provide comments and concerns. If it is determined that more meetings are needed, the Withdrawal Committee will add more to the schedule.

- ★ **September 22 at 7:00 pm: In-person at JSMS (Must RSVP) \***
  - ★ **September 28 at 6:00 pm: Zoom meeting (link will be available on the Town of Raymond website)**
- \*The live meetings need to be RSVP'd to meet the state's mandate on indoor gatherings. You can RSVP at [RSU.Withdrawal@Raymondmaine.org](mailto:RSU.Withdrawal@Raymondmaine.org).*

Those who would like to submit questions to the Withdrawal Committee, please send them to: [RSU.withdrawal@Raymondmaine.org](mailto:RSU.withdrawal@Raymondmaine.org). These questions will go straight to the committee members to be answered.

### HOW DID WE GET HERE?

In May 2018, a petition was circulated through Raymond with the following:  
 We the undersigned registered voters of the Town of Raymond, Maine, qualified to vote in town affairs, hereby petition the Town of Raymond Board of Selectman, to initiate the process to withdraw from RSU #14 in accordance with Maine Revised Statutes Annotated, Title 20-A: EDUCATION §1466. Withdrawal of a single municipality from a regional school unit.  
 353 signatures were certified as valid by the Registrar of Voters, Sue Look, and at the June 19, 2018, Select Board meeting the Board voted to accept the petition and proceed with a Public Hearing on July 31, 2018, and a Special Town Meeting on August 14, 2018.  
 On August 14, 2018, voted by secret ballot, the voters of Raymond approved an amount not to exceed \$50,000 to explore withdrawing from the RSU. To date (09/11/2020) \$30, 911.65 of the allotted money has been spent.

### POTENTIAL REASONS TO WITHDRAWAL:

- Raymond would have own School Board allowing for complete local control of services, budget, and programs. Currently, Raymond has a three to six ratio on the RSU Board.
- With local control can come increased local involvement, improving sense of community for all members, bridging the gap between the elder community and younger families.
- Raymond will continue to offer school choice for grades 9-12 and Windham High School will remain one of those choices with a guaranteed acceptance for Raymond students.
- Increased opportunity to combine resources with the Town of Raymond (plowing, sanding, field and grounds maintenance, recreation programs, finance, and technology).
- Increased potential to involve several outside volunteer groups such as Age Friendly Raymond and the Raymond Village Library to conduct community events with the school and share volunteer resources.
- Withdrawal helps protect Raymond from further consolidation (losing middle school) if Windham builds larger middle school.
- Raymond schools did well as a standalone unit in the past and was designated a school of excellence.
- Withdrawal budget subcommittee believes that Pre-K can be expanded while keeping under current RSU14 budget.
- Raymond would not be responsible for any new construction/leases that occur in Windham.
- The cost-sharing contract is up for negotiation which currently has Windham responsible for 65% of the education costs and Raymond with 35%, which for the fiscal year 2020-2021 is \$10,730,753.23. Raymond pays a higher share when considering pupil count.

### POTENTIAL REASONS NOT TO WITHDRAW:

- Raymond assumes all costs of maintenance and repairs on Jordan-Small Middle School and Raymond Elementary, although none are planned at this time.
- No representation or school board members at any high school that students may attend.
- Declining student enrollment which could lead to cuts in staff and programs.
- May see a reduction in co-curricular and sports programs.
- Uncertainty of special education program regarding costs – can fluctuate based on student needs and population. Raymond would have the sole responsibility to shoulder these costs.
- Transportation to other schools.
- Potentially only having a 3/5 superintendent.
- Loss of federal funding due to Raymond's high property valuation.
- Loss of ability to share staff with Windham schools.

### IF RAYMOND WITHDRAWS:

- Raymond will guarantee current staffing levels and allow all staff to continue with their current benefits.
- Budget for withdrawal provides for a school resource officer and free breakfast and lunch for all K-4 students. It also includes all programs currently being offered by the RSU.
- If Raymond votes to withdraw a new School Board will be voted on in January to prepare for a July 1<sup>st</sup> start date.
- There will be sufficient budget to hire staff in order to ensure an appropriate transition.

### MAJOR BUDGET POINTS:

- Secondary costs (including Special Education) have been reduced to the estimated State tuition rate — School choice remains in effect. Differential averaged to \$10,000.00 per year.
- \$140,000.00 has been added for the cost of a School Resource Officer for both campuses.
- \$180,000.00 has been added for nutrition — to provide free breakfast and lunch for K-4 grades.
- The budgets as submitted by Raymond administration remain in full effect. All services and programs currently in existence will carry forward. They have been adjusted upward to account for the 2021-2022 FY.
- Subtractions have been made from the RSU14 V9 Maintenance and Facilities accounts to eliminate those non-recurring costs that will be expended in the FY20-21 (\$109,000.00).
- Additions to staff have been partially carried in the pre-withdrawal expenses, and increased in the budget to reflect those positions that may be hired after 07/17/2021.
- School Board costs assume 5 seats with appropriate stipends and insurances.
- Pre-K assumes 20 students (5 identified) and three staff.
- There will no longer be shared employees. Additions to the staff budgets have been made to accommodate those shared employees that may wish to be full time in Raymond

### BUDGET SUMMARY 2021-2022 BUDGET YEAR

FUNCTION	EXPENDITURES
Pre – Kindergarten .....	132,756.72
Raymond Elementary School.....	1,827,442.15
Jordan Small Middle School.....	1,773,385.42
Secondary Tuition.....	2,438,435.42
Co-Curricular (K-8) .....	22,712.65
Security.....	140,000.00
Technology .....	220,752.73
C.I.A.....	258,763.67
Nutrition .....	180,000.00
School Board .....	50,000.00
Office of Superintendent.....	165,357.60
Business Office.....	81,357.85
Operation & Maintenance of buildings.....	868,843.56
Special Education.....	1,607,071.01
Student Transportation.....	657,197.02
Additions to Staff .....	210,000.00
Contingency.....	200,000.00
Total Expenditures.....	10,816,075.79

### PROJECTED REVENUES

Balance Forward .....	150,000.00
State Funds .....	713,281.95
Local Funds.....	9,942,793.84
Debt.....	0.00

### FINANCIAL IMPACT OF WITHDRAWAL

**Current Budget Position:**  
 Last six fiscal year budgets for the RSU14 have averaged a 4.70% increase per year. Assuming the trend continues, the Raymond share 2020-2021 \$10,730,753.00 (Act) of the RSU 14 budget for 2021-2022 will be: 2021-2022 \$11,235,098.00 (Est)

### ESTIMATED BUDGET AFTER WITHDRAWAL:

Savings are in secondary education which will be paid at the state tuition rate, no payments for Adult Education, and the Katahdin School. A realignment of some facilities costs. All existing programs remain in effect.  
**No other changes.**  
 2021-2022 **\$9,632,794.00**

### Suggested add-ins for board approval.

School Resource Officer.....	\$140,000.00
No Cost Breakfast/Lunch for Raymond K-4 grades .....	\$180,000.00
Total Budget request for 2021-2022 Post Withdrawal .....	\$9,942,794.00
Estimated Savings without add-ins.....	\$1,602,304.00

### Anticipated 9 additions to existing staff included in this budget: (Some subject to board approval)

3 in Administration	2 in Special Education
1 in Facilities	1 in Transportation
1 in Technology	1 in Food Service

**RAYMOND RESIDENTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE ON THE RSU WITHDRAWAL IN NOVEMBER. GET INFORMED AND VOTE!**