

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF STOWE, VERMONT SUPPORTING AN INCREASE IN THE LOCAL OPTION TAX

WHEREAS, the Town of Stowe currently levies a one percent (1%) Local Option Tax on rooms, meals, alcoholic beverages, and sales and the Selectboard has warned articles on the Annual Meeting Australian Ballot Warning providing the voters the opportunity to consider increasing these use taxes to two percent (2%); and

WHEREAS, every dollar raised in Local Option Taxes is a dollar that does not need to be raised in property taxes; and

WHEREAS, revenue generated from the existing Local Option Tax has been critical in funding essential capital improvement projects, supporting municipal services, and paying down municipal bond debt, thereby alleviating pressure on residential property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Stowe continues to experience rising operational and capital costs due to inflation, population growth, and the significant demands placed upon municipal services by a robust tourism economy; and

WHEREAS, a primary goal of the Stowe Selectboard is to maintain fiscal stability and deliver vital public services without disproportionately burdening property owners, a substantial portion of whom are full-time residents with fixed or moderate incomes; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of the revenue from the Local Option Tax is generated by visitors and non-residents, allowing the town to fund initiatives that benefit the entire community, including public infrastructure and safety, while shifting some of the tax burden away from local residents; and

WHEREAS, the State exempts many staple goods from the sales tax and it is not uncommon for visitors to pay local option taxes; and

WHEREAS, one Selectboard cannot bind a future Selectboards or voters, but there are several reasons to consider adopting additional Local Option Taxes which may include, but are not be limited to, reducing reliance on property taxes to fund municipal services and capital projects, supporting essential improvements to public infrastructure, such as road maintenance and flood mitigation projects, which benefit both residents and visitors; ensuring adequate funding for

essential services like the fire department and rescue operations, including the transition to paid staff to maintain consistent, reliable service levels; and allocating funds for community priorities such as housing development and economic development initiatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Selectboard of the Town of Stowe that an increase in the local option tax rate from 1% to 2% is unanimously agreed to be advanced for voter consideration at Annual Town Meeting, and that the Town of Stowe Selectboard encourages all registered voters to participate in the democratic process and vote.

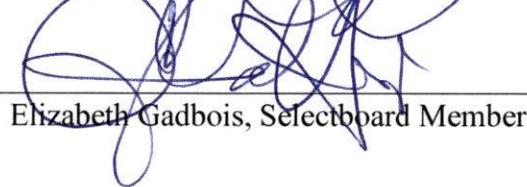
ADOPTED by the Town of Stowe Selectboard this 8 day of January 2026.


Francis (Paco) Aumand, Selectboard Chair


Ethan Carlson, Selectboard Vice Chair


Dominick Donza, Selectboard Member


Jo Sabel Courtney, Selectboard Member


Elizabeth Gadbois, Selectboard Member

ATTEST:

Received, filed, and recorded in the Town of Stowe this 9 day of January, 2026.


Penny Davis, Town Clerk