

OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
February 25, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

The legal voters of the Otter Valley Union Unified School District, consisting of the Towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Sudbury and Whiting are hereby notified and warned to meet in person at the Otter Valley Union High School Auditorium on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 6:30 PM, to consider and act upon the following articles (Articles 1-10) and for a public informational hearing to discuss the articles to be voted upon by Australian ballot (Article 11-12). Legal voters who attend via Zoom may not act upon Articles from the floor but may participate for informational purposes only. The legal voters are further notified and warned that voting on Articles shall take place by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at the times and places listed for the official polling places of the respective Towns comprising the district below.

Virtual Option

for Observing Annual District Meeting
 Remote attendees may not act upon Articles from the floor but may participate for informational purposes only.
 Meeting link and dial in information can be found on the calendar on the RNESU website:
<http://www.mesu.org/events>.

To be acted upon on Wednesday, February 25, 2026.

- Article 1: To elect a Moderator who shall assume office immediately and serve a one-year term or until the election and qualification of a successor.
- Article 2: To elect a Clerk who shall assume office on July 1, 2026 and serve a one-year term or until the election and qualification of a successor.
- Article 3: To elect a Treasurer who shall assume office on July 1, 2026 and serve one-year term or until the election and qualification of a successor.
- Article 4: To establish the salaries for the elected officers of the District.

- A. School Directors - \$1,500 per member per year, with an additional \$750 per year for the member serving as School Board Chair. This compensation represents the full and complete payment for School Directors for the period beginning with the first meeting in March and ending at the annual meeting the following February. No additional compensation shall be provided for committee membership or participation. School Directors who serve for less than twelve (12) months during this period shall have their salary prorated at a rate of \$125 per month.
- B. Moderator - \$150 per meeting
- C. Clerk - \$150 per meeting
- D. Treasurer - \$6,000 per year

- Article 5: To approve all minutes from the last Unified Union District annual meeting to date.
- Article 6: Shall the legal voters authorize the School Board to borrow money by issuance of notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027?
- Article 7: To hear and discuss the Board of School Directors of the Unified Union School District's presentation of its estimate of expenses for the ensuing year as stated in Article 11 to be voted upon by Australian Ballot.
- Article 8: Shall the voters approve changing the date of the 2027 Annual District Meeting to Wednesday, February 17, 2027 to avoid scheduling during school vacation.
- Article 9: To transact any other business which may legally come before this meeting.
- Article 10: To recess the meeting until 7:00 AM March 3, 2026, when voting by Australian ballot shall commence.

To be voted upon by Australian ballot on March 3, 2026:

- Article 11: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend Twenty-Eight Million Eight Hundred Forty-One Thousand, Two Hundred Eight-Five Dollars (\$28,841,285) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Otter Valley Unified Union School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$14,257, which is 5.5% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.
- Article 12: To elect the following officers to serve from their election and qualification until March following the election and qualification of their successors:
 School Director, Brandon for a term of three (3) years
 School Director, Leicester for a term of three (3) years
 School Director, Pittsford for a term of one (1) year remaining of a three (3) year term
 School Director, Whiting for a term of one (1) year remaining of a three (3) year term
 School Director, At-Large for a term of three (3) years
 School Director, At-Large for a term of three (3) years
 School Director, At-Large for a term of one (1) year remaining of a three (3) year term

For the purpose of voting by Australian ballot:

In person voting will be available at local polling places on March 3, 2026. To request to have an OVUSD absentee ballot mailed to you, please contact your Town Clerk, or use the "My Voter Page" online resource from the Secretary of State which can be found here: <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>. Please make your request for mailed ballots to your Town clerk no later than February 24, 2026. Absentee ballots must be returned before the close of the Town Clerk's office on the day before the election, or to the polling place before 7:00 PM on the day of the election, to be counted.

The Town polls will be opened for voting March 3, 2026 as follows:

Town of Brandon	7:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Brandon American Legion Post #55
Town of Goshen	9:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Goshen Town Hall
Town of Leicester	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Leicester Town Office
Town of Pittsford	7:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Pittsford Town Office
Town of Sudbury	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Sudbury Town Hall
Town of Whiting	7:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Whiting Town Hall

Upon closing of the polls in Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Sudbury and Whiting, the ballot boxes will be sealed, transported to, and re-opened at Brandon American Legion Post #55 in the Town of Brandon, where the ballots will be counted and commingled by a tabulator under observation of representatives of the Boards of Civil Authority of the Towns of Brandon, Goshen, Leicester, Pittsford, Sudbury, and Whiting under the supervision of the Clerk of the Otter Valley Union Unified School District.

The legal voters of the Otter Valley Union Unified School District are further notified that voter qualification and registration relative to said meeting shall be as provided in Section 706(u) of Title 16, and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

On behalf of the Otter Valley Union Unified School District Board of Directors:

Dated at Brandon, Vermont
 January 13, 2026

Laurie Bertrand
 Laurie Bertrand, Board Chair
 Otter Valley Unified Union School District No. U053

OFFICIAL BALLOT
OTTER VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BRANDON, GOSHEN, LEICESTER, PITTSFORD,
SUDBURY AND WHITING, VERMONT
MARCH 3, 2026

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- Use BLACK Pen to fill in the oval. DO NOT USE PENCIL.
- To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, fill in the oval to the right of the name of that person.
- To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the person's name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval to the right of the write-in line. Please use block letters and stay within the box provided for write-ins.
- Do not vote for more candidates than the "VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN #" for an office.
- If you make a mistake, tear, or deface the ballot, return it to an election official and obtain another ballot. DO NOT ERASE.

ARTICLES

Article 11: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend Twenty-Eight Million Eight Hundred Forty-One Thousand, Two Hundred Eight-Five Dollars (\$28,841,285) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Otter Valley Unified Union School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$14,257, which is 5.5% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.

YES

NO

Article 12: To elect the following officers to serve from their election and qualification until March following the election and qualification of their successors:

<p align="center">BRANDON SCHOOL DIRECTOR three (3) years Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>KEVIN THORNTON <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="text"/></p>	<p align="center">PITTSFORD SCHOOL DIRECTOR one (1) year remaining of a three (3) year term Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>KEVIN WHITE <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="text"/></p>	<p align="center">AT-LARGE SCHOOL DIRECTOR three (3) years Vote for not more than TWO</p> <p>GABRIEL B. MCGUIGAN <input type="radio"/></p> <p>JESSICA FJELD <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="text"/></p>
<p align="center">LEICESTER SCHOOL DIRECTOR three (3) years Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>LESLEY BIENVENUE <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="text"/></p>	<p align="center">WHITING SCHOOL DIRECTOR one (1) year remaining of a three (3) year term Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>RHIANNON BANKS-MORGAN <input type="radio"/></p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="text"/></p>	<p align="center">AT-LARGE SCHOOL DIRECTOR one (1) year remaining of a three (3) year term Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="text"/></p>