

# CIVIC EDUCATION SERIES

Class #1: Intro to Local Governance

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Gain a clear understanding of Rindge's local government structure.
2. Learn the roles and responsibilities of town officials and departments.
3. Explore how decisions are made and how residents can participate
4. Understand how state laws (RSA's) impact local governance.

# INTRODUCTION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## (15 MIN)

- Welcome
  - Overview of Civic Education Series
  - Why understanding local government matters
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- Key Message: Local decisions directly impact your taxes, schools, roads, and services – knowing how it works empowers you to make informed decisions.



# RINDGE'S GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

## (20 MIN)

- Board of Selectmen: Roles, responsibilities, and limitations
- Town Administrator: Day-to-day operations, budgeting, and town staff oversight.
- Town Clerk, Treasurer, and Moderator: Key responsibilities
- Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA), and Conservation Commission: Understanding their roles in growth, zoning, and environmental protection.
- Volunteer Committees and Boards: How residents contribute to town functions.

# NH RSAS & LOCAL DECISION-MAKING

## (20 MIN)

- RSA 32: Municipal Budget Law
  - RSA 41: Powers and duties of Selectmen
  - RSA 91-A: Right-to-Know Law (Public Meetings and Records)
  - How RSAs ensure transparency and accountability in town governance.
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- Activity: A brief Q&A where participants match common scenarios to relevant RSAs.



# THE ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS

## (20 MIN)

- Timeline of budget season.
- How residents can provide input during budget hearings.
- The role of warrant articles and the Town Meeting in approving the budget.

# RESIDENT INVOLVEMENT & ADVOCACY

## (15 MIN)

- How to participate in public meetings and hearings
- Steps to join a volunteer board or committee
- Tips for effectively advocating for community issues
  
- Engagement: Share a positive example of resident involvement that led to meaningful change in Rindge.

# CLOSING REMARKS AND Q&A

## (10 MIN)

- Recap of key points
- Open floor for participant questions
- Distribute handouts with a “Who to Contact” list for town officials and services.