

**LEWISTON CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL**

**TUESDAY, MAY 29, 2018**

**5:30 p.m. Dinner**

**6:00 p.m. Special Meeting**

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**SPECIAL MEETING**

1. Public Hearing on the upcoming Municipal Ballot Question regarding Lewiston Public Schools joining a Regional Service Center.

**WORKSHOP**

Council Retreat/Planning Session

# LEWISTON CITY COUNCIL

## MEETING OF MAY 29, 2018

**AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET:**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1**

**SUBJECT:**

Public Hearing on the upcoming Municipal Ballot Question regarding Lewiston Public Schools joining a Regional Service Center.

**INFORMATION:**

Under state law, the municipal officers must conduct a public hearing on referendum questions that are placed on municipal ballots. This offers voters the opportunity to educate themselves and ask questions about the ballot issue prior to casting a vote on the matter.

Please see the attached Fact Sheet on this issue that has been prepared by School Superintendent Bill Webster.

The City Council does not need to take any action for this agenda item other than to conduct the Public Hearing to allow citizens the opportunity to speak and ask questions.

**APPROVAL AND/OR COMMENTS OF CITY ADMINISTRATOR:**

The City Administrator recommends approval of the requested action.

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**REQUESTED ACTION:**

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To conduct a Public Hearing to receive citizen input and comment on the following ballot question on the June 12<sup>th</sup> Special Municipal Referendum Election:

*“Do you approve Lewiston Public Schools joining a Regional Service Center with other area school districts in order to improve educational efficiencies and preserve state subsidy, as set forth in an application to be approved by the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Education?”*

**Fact Sheet on June 12, 2018 Vote re Regional Service Centers  
For Lewiston Public Hearing  
May 29, 2018**

**Referendum Question:**

“Do you approve Lewiston Public Schools joining a Regional Service Center with other area school districts in order to improve educational efficiencies and preserve state subsidy, as set forth in an application to be approved by the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Education?”

**Status of Area School Districts**

The proposed regional service center will be called Great Falls Regional Service Center, and will potentially include Lewiston Public Schools, Auburn School Department, MSAD 52 (Leavitt) and RSU 16 (Poland). MSAD 52 and RSU 16 have fully approved the center, and Auburn and Lewiston voters will be voting in separate referendums on June 12, 2018.

**What is a Regional Service Center?**

The State is promoting regional service centers as a way for school districts to work together to improve efficiencies. They are established in new legislation, Chapter 123, that was passed by the Maine Legislature last July. Districts that participate receive additional state funding equal to \$46 per student in 2018-19 and \$94 per student in 2019-20.

**Implications of the Vote**

*If the referendum passes:*

Lewiston Public Schools will be a founding member of the Great Falls Regional Service Center along with MSAD 52, RSU 16, and, if the referendum passes in Auburn, the Auburn School Department. By joining, Lewiston will retain \$192,576 in State educational subsidy. The Service Center will also receive \$97,200 from the State to fund regionalization efforts that the Service Center Board of Directors decides to pursue. Possible regionalization efforts include:

- Joint purchasing for nutrition programs and substitute teacher scheduling software;
- Programs in support of principal leadership development;
- Weather service to assist in school closure decisions;
- Formalizing our participation in Auburn’s Regional Educational Treatment Center (RETC) where we presently contract for 7 student slots.

We do not anticipate any additional costs to the general fund budget as a result of joining the Service Center. The goal is to create budget savings through shared programs and initiatives.

*If the referendum fails:*

Lewiston’s State educational subsidy will be reduced by \$192,576, and Lewiston would not participate in regionalization efforts or regionalization funding.

**Action by the Lewiston School Committee**

On May 7, 2018 the School Committee approved entering into the regional service center with the stipulation “that Lewiston Public Schools will not continue membership beyond this first year should the agreement not be amended to place a Lewiston School Committee member on the Regional Service Center board.”

The agreement cannot be amended until after the Great Falls Regional Service Center becomes operational on July 1, 2018. Under the agreement as presently written, the Board is made up of superintendents or his/her designee of the participating districts. Lewiston Superintendent Bill Webster has designated School Committee member Tina Hutchinson to represent Lewiston on the Great Falls Regional Service Center Board of Directors.

**LEGAL AD**

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
CITY OF LEWISTON  
SPECIAL MUNICIPAL REFERENDUM**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Lewiston will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 29, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. or as soon as possible thereafter in Council Chambers at Lewiston City Hall, 27 Pine Street, Lewiston, ME. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive public comments on the proposed Special Municipal Referendum question which will go before Lewiston voters in a Special Municipal Referendum Election to be held on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 in accordance to Title 30-A, sec. 2528 (5).

***Question 1:***

***Do you approve Lewiston Public Schools joining a Regional Service Center with other area school districts in order to improve educational efficiencies and preserve state subsidy, as set forth in an application to be approved by the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Education?***

All interested parties are invited to attend the Public Hearing and will be given an opportunity to be heard at that time. In order to accommodate all of those who would like to speak, comments may be limited to 3-5 minutes each.

The City of Lewiston is an EOE. FMI, please visit [www.lewistonmaine.gov](http://www.lewistonmaine.gov) and see the Non-Discrimination Policy.

Kathleen M. Montejo, City Clerk

**LEGAL AD - SUN JOURNAL - Friday, May 18, 2018**

TO: LSJ Advertising Dept. 784-3062 fax Attn: Venise  
FROM: Lewiston City Clerk's Office 777-4621 fax

Thank you.

Please bill the City Clerk's Dept account.

LEWISTON CITY COUNCIL PLANNING RETREAT  
6:10 P.M. MAY 29, 2018  
ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM  
FIRST FLOOR, LEWISTON CITY HALL

OUTLINE/AGENDA

- 5:30 – 6:00 Gathering/food/social time
- 6:10 – 6:30 Completion of any remaining items from the May 22<sup>nd</sup> agenda
- 6:30 – 8:30 Developing Objectives and Goals - Beginning with the highest priority item and working downward, the Council fleshes out each goal and starts to develop specific, measurable, and achievable two-year goal statements including responsibility for work on each item.
- 8:30 – 9:00 Next Steps & Adjourn