

VOTE



Voter Information Handbook

A Guide to State Referenda
and Voting Procedures in Rhode Island

General Election
November 5, 2024



Be a Voter



Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

A Message from the Secretary

Dear Rhode Island Voter:

Election Day is November 5, and you have many important decisions to make. The RI Department of State is pleased to provide you with this voter guide in advance of the general election.

This guide contains information about the state questions you will see on your ballot in November. In addition to the statewide questions outlined in this guide, many communities will have local ballot questions. You can see those questions in advance by previewing your sample ballot at vote.ri.gov, or get more information by contacting your local election officials - the board of canvassers in your city or town.

In Rhode Island, you have three ways to cast your ballot: by mail, early in-person, or on Election Day.

If you are voting by mail, be sure to return your mail ballot application by October 15 and ensure your ballot is received by the State Board of Elections or safely deposited in a secure elections drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Early voting will begin on October 16 and end at 4 p.m. on November 4. Your early voting location can be found online at vote.ri.gov or by contacting your local board of canvassers. Be sure to bring an acceptable photo ID.

The polls will be open on Election Day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. (except in New Shoreham, where polls open at 9 a.m.). Find your polling place online at vote.ri.gov. Be sure to bring an acceptable photo ID.

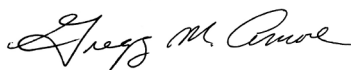
For more information about how to safely and securely cast your ballot, visit vote.ri.gov or contact the RI Department of State Elections Division at 401-222-2340.

Voting is a critical form of civic engagement, and I encourage every eligible Rhode Islander to participate in this year's general election.

Don't forget – under State law, eligible Rhode Islanders can vote for President and Vice President on Election Day, even if they did not register by the October 6 voter registration deadline. Please contact our office for more information.

If you need additional information, please call the voter information hotline by dialing 2-1-1 or TTY 711; visit us during normal business hours at 148 West River Street in Providence; or email us at elections@sos.ri.gov.

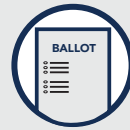
We are here to help.



Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

P.S. Be sure to follow us on X (@RISecState), on Facebook (RISecState), and on Instagram (@RISecState).

Be Voter Ready!



Preview a sample ballot

You can see a sample ballot by visiting the Voter Information Center at vote.ri.gov.



Voting early

Contact your local board of canvassers for more information. See page 18 for phone numbers and addresses.



Voting on Election Day

Go to vote.ri.gov to find your polling place.

CONTACT US

-  2-1-1
-  elections@sos.ri.gov
-  vote.ri.gov
-  @RISecState
-  Like us on Facebook
RISecState

What’s in this guide

- Ways to Vote 4
- Voting by Mail 5
- Voting In Person 6
- Accessibility and Voting Assistance at the Polls 7
- State Referenda Questions**
- Question 1 - Constitutional Convention 8
- State Bond Referenda Questions** 10
- Question 2 - Higher Education Facilities..... 11
- Question 3 - Housing and Community Opportunity..... 12
- Question 4 - Green Economy Bonds..... 13
- Question 5 - Cultural Arts and the Economy Grant Program 15
- Definitions of Terms 17
- Local Boards of Canvassers, State Board of Elections, and
Disability Rights Rhode Island Contact Information 18
- Your Voting Plan Checklist 19

WARNING

Voter fraud is a felony and is punishable by a fine and/or a jail sentence. You must be a United States citizen and registered to vote from your actual place of residence.

Ways to Vote



VOTE BY MAIL

Voting by mail is a safe and easy option for those voters who do not want to vote in person.

Voters who complete their mail ballot application and return it, or apply online, by the deadline (**October 15, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.**) will have a mail ballot sent to them.

Refer to page 5 for important information about returning your mail ballot.



VOTE EARLY

October 16 - November 4



Call your local board of canvassers (see page 18) for voting hours and accessible voting information.



Preview your ballot at **vote.ri.gov**



Bring a valid photo ID.



VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

November 5



Find your polling place and polling place hours at **vote.ri.gov**



Preview your ballot at **vote.ri.gov**



Bring a valid photo ID.



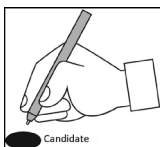
All mail ballot applications must be postmarked by October 15 at 4 p.m. and received within three days of that deadline.

Voting by Mail

Voting by mail is a safe and secure option for voters who do not want to vote in person.

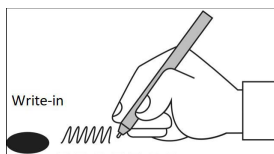
1

Vote your mail ballot



To mark your choice
Use a pen. Black ink preferred.
Fill in the oval to the left of your choice.

or



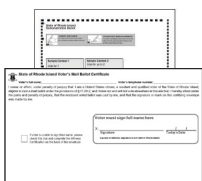
To vote for a write-in candidate
Use a pen. Black ink preferred.
Fill in the oval to the left of "Write-in" and print their name clearly.

Made a mistake when marking your ballot?

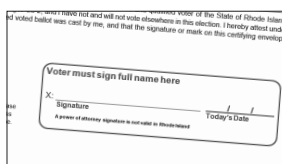
Contact the RI Department of State Elections Division to receive a replacement ballot.

2

Secure your mail ballot



Place and seal your voted ballot into the **Voter's Mail Ballot Certificate Envelope**.



Sign and date the **Voter's Mail Ballot Certificate Envelope**.
If you are unable to sign your name, a witness must complete the Witness Certification.



Place the **Voter's Mail Ballot Certificate Envelope** into the **Return Envelope**.

3

Return your mail ballot

By Mail

- Mail your ballot at least **7 days before Election Day** to ensure it is received in time.
- Your ballot must be received by **8 p.m. on Election Day**.

or

By Drop Box

- Drop your ballot off in a 24-hour elections drop box.
- Your ballot must be in an official elections drop box by **8 p.m. on Election Day**.



Visit vote.ri.gov or scan this QR code to find a drop box near you.

4

Track your mail ballot

- Sign up to track the status of your mail ballot at vote.ri.gov
- You will receive updates when your ballot is placed in the mail and when it is received by the Board of Elections for certification.
- **Questions about your returned ballot?**
Contact the Board of Elections:
401-222-2345 or at boe.elections@elections.ri.gov

ballottrax

State of Rhode Island

Trust That Your Vote Counts!



Voting in person after applying for a mail ballot

Any person who applied for a mail ballot and attempts to vote at a polling place on Election Day will have to cast a provisional ballot.

Voting In Person

You have two options for voting in person.



EARLY VOTING PERIOD

October 16 - November 4

Vote in person at a location designated by your city or town during their regular business hours.



VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

November 5

Vote in person at your polling place on Election Day.

Be voter ready!



REVIEW YOUR
BALLOT



FIND YOUR
VOTING PLACE



BRING A VALID
PHOTO ID

1

Check-in

- › Provide your photo ID.
- › Sign the electronic poll book.

The elections official will provide you with a ballot and a secrecy folder and direct you to a voting booth.

Don't forget - any voter can choose to use the ExpressVote.

Different address?

If you moved within the same city/town without updating your voter registration address, you will need to complete an affirmation form before voting.

Does your name not appear on the voter list, do you not have an acceptable form of photo ID, did you apply for a mail ballot, or is there another issue with your eligibility to vote?

You will be allowed to cast a provisional ballot on Election Day. This means that your vote may be counted by your local board of canvassers after Election Day.

2

Mark your ballot

Read the instructions at the top of the ballot.

Check both sides of the ballot.

Fill in the oval to the left of your choice(s).

Make a mistake marking your ballot?

Bring your ballot to an elections official and ask for a new ballot to start over.

3

Count your vote!

Remove your ballot from the secrecy folder and insert only your ballot into the voting machine.

**Wear your
"I VOTED" sticker!**



Accessibility and Voting Assistance at the Polls

Help America Vote Act (HAVA)

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) is a federal law that requires every state to have voting systems that are accessible for individuals with disabilities. The law also requires voting systems that enable voters who are blind, visually impaired, or have print disabilities to cast their votes privately and independently in every election.

Under HAVA requirements, Rhode Island registered voters voting in person, either early or on Election Day, will have access to an accessible voting machine known as the ExpressVote.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The ADA protects people with disabilities from receiving unequal treatment within state and local government services, programs, and activities.

Under the ADA, all voting locations must have accessible parking, an accessible entrance, at least one handicapped-accessible voting booth, clear signage of accessible entrances and voting booths, good lighting, available seats for voters waiting to vote, and notepads to communicate in writing.

Additional provisions when voting in person

Below are additional protections for Rhode Island voters choosing to vote in person:

- All voting locations must be equipped with a sheet magnifier to assist voters who are visually impaired.
- Voters who are over 65 years of age or disabled must be allowed to use the seated voting booth.
- Voters who have a medical disability which would cause the voter to experience severe discomfort by standing in line will be allowed to move to the front of the line.
- Voters who need assistance may ask elections officials for help at any time, even after entering the voting booth.
- Any voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may be given assistance by a pair of poll workers or a person of the voter's choice. The voter's employer or agent of that employer, or an officer or agent of the voter's union, ARE PROHIBITED from providing assistance.



If the polling place you are assigned to is inaccessible, you should immediately notify your local board of canvassers and they will arrange an alternate means for you to cast your vote.

Mark your ballot with the ExpressVote

1



INSERT CARD

A poll worker will give you a ballot card.

Insert the card into the ExpressVote machine.

2



MAKE SELECTIONS

Make selections by touching the screen or using the key pad and headphones to hear the choices and make selections.

3



REVIEW AND PRINT

Review all selections on the summary screen. Once your selections are confirmed, press "Print Card." You can review your choices on your printed ballot, or reinsert the card to have your selections read back to you.

4



INSERT YOUR BALLOT

Insert your ballot into the voting machine.

State Referenda Questions

About Question 1:

What it will look like on the ballot:

<p>1. CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION (Section 2 of Article XIV of the Rhode Island Constitution)</p> <p>Shall there be a convention to amend or revise the Rhode Island Constitution?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Approve</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Reject</p>
--

Approve

Your vote to “Approve” means that you support a Constitutional Convention being called to amend or revise the Rhode Island Constitution.

Reject

Your vote to “Reject” means that you are opposed to a Constitutional Convention being called to amend or revise the Rhode Island Constitution.

Explanation and purpose of Question 1:

Shall there be a convention to amend or revise the Rhode Island Constitution?

A Constitutional Convention is an assembly of delegates or representatives of the people of the State for the purpose of amending or revising the Rhode Island Constitution. A Constitutional Convention, if held, could propose an entirely new Constitution for adoption or rejection by the State’s electors; it could propose individual amendments to the Constitution; or it could re-write the basic document while presenting what appear to be the most controversial issues to the electors in the form of supplemental amendments, thus allowing individual decisions on each.

No amendment or revision to the Constitution agreed upon by a Constitutional Convention shall take effect until the amendments or revisions have been submitted to the electors of the State and approved by a majority of those electors voting.

In accordance with Section 2 of Article XIV of the Rhode Island Constitution, a bi-partisan preparatory commission was created by the General Assembly to assemble information on constitutional questions for the electors of the State. The preparatory commission made use of such sources and gathered information pertinent to the fulfillment of its charge as it deemed appropriate. The preparatory commission, after gathering information on particular issues that the State’s electors may consider, reported its findings to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and to the public, through the news media.

If a majority of the State’s electors vote to hold a Constitutional Convention, then it will be the responsibility of the 2025 General Assembly to enact legislation determining the method of election of delegates, setting forth an election schedule, and appropriating funds. The number of delegates shall be equal to the number of members of the House of Representatives and shall be apportioned in the same manner as the members of the House of Representatives. The parameters of a Constitutional Convention would be decided by the General Assembly and the elected delegates to the Convention. The last Constitutional Convention was held in 1986.

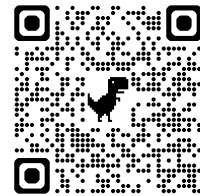
The cost to the taxpayers of conducting a Constitutional Convention in 2026 is unknown. However, the bi-partisan preparatory commission for the proposed Constitutional Convention that met in July and August 2024 reported that pricing the potential elements of a Constitutional Convention by component, with no specific guidance on the actual conduct of it, suggests a range of \$2.6 million to \$4.8 million, with a midpoint of \$3.7 million. These values contain the \$1.3 million estimate for a 2025 special election provided by the RI Department of State to the bi-partisan preparatory commission. They remain subject to significant revision depending on decisions as to both the conduct of the election of Convention delegates and how the delegates will be supported once selected, including direct payments, staff, contracted expertise, and other operations.

A copy of the complete report issued by the bi-partisan preparatory commission presenting its findings, including information on issues that may be considered by the Constitutional Convention and the projected costs to taxpayers of holding a Constitutional Convention in 2026, may be viewed on the website of the Rhode Island General Assembly (www.rilegislature.gov) or a copy of the report may be obtained from the Rhode Island Library, State House Room 208, Providence, RI 02903.

This question has been proposed by the General Assembly of the State pursuant to Section 2 of Article XIV of the Rhode Island Constitution, which gives the General Assembly the right to submit to the electors at any election the question, "Shall there be a convention to amend or revise the Rhode Island Constitution?" If the General Assembly fails to submit the question to the electors of the State during any ten year period, then the Secretary of State shall submit it at the next general election following such period.

REPORT

You can view the complete report issued by the bi-partisan preparatory commission by scanning this QR Code or by visiting the General Assembly website at www.rilegislature.gov.



State Bond Referenda Questions

Referenda Questions 2 – 5 involve authorizing the State to borrow money through bonds and temporary notes to make capital investments (**Chapter 117 Public Laws 2024**).

What is a bond?

A bond is like a mortgage or loan. Just like people might borrow money to get an education or buy a home, the State is asking to borrow money from a lender with the promise to pay it back over time with interest. These questions are asking you for permission to borrow and invest in different areas of our state.

Here is a table of the bond proposals and their associated costs including principal and interest. Just as with a mortgage or loan, the total cost includes the principal amount borrowed and the amount of interest paid over the term of the bond. The total cost also includes any fees, printing, or underwriting expenses associated with issuing the bonds.

STATE BOND QUESTIONS	PRINCIPAL	INTEREST	TOTAL COSTS
2. Higher Education Facilities	\$160,500,000	\$97,078,500	\$257,578,500
3. Housing and Community Opportunity	\$120,000,000	\$72,586,000	\$192,586,000
4. Green Economy Bonds	\$53,000,000	\$32,054,500	\$85,054,500
5. Cultural Arts and the Economy Grant Program	\$10,000,000	\$6,052,500	\$16,052,500
TOTAL BORROWING COSTS FOR ALL REFERENDA	\$343,500,000	\$207,771,500	\$551,271,500

The total costs above are only estimates based on 20-year loans and an interest rate of 5%.

On the ballot, you will be asked:

“Shall the act passed by the General Assembly in January 2024 allowing Rhode Island to issue bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes to pay for the projects listed below, be approved, and the State be allowed to issue these bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes as outlined in the law?”

The following pages provide more information about each of the bond questions including their total estimated cost and project timetable. These estimated costs assume the bonds are gradually paid off with level payments over a 20-year period.

About Question 2:

What it will look like on the ballot:

2. HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES - \$160,500,000

For capital improvements to higher education facilities, to be allocated as follows:

- a. University of Rhode Island Biomedical Sciences Building - \$87,500,000
- b. Rhode Island College Cybersecurity Building - \$73,000,000

Approve

Reject

Approve

Your vote to "Approve" means that you support the State issuing \$160,500,000 in general obligation bonds to improve higher education facilities.

Reject

Your vote to "Reject" means that you are against the State issuing \$160,500,000 in general obligation bonds to improve higher education facilities.

Explanation and purpose of Question 2:

a) University of Rhode Island Biomedical Sciences Building - \$87,500,000: Approval of these bonds would provide eighty-seven million five hundred thousand dollars (\$87,500,000) to design and construct a Biomedical Sciences building and associated infrastructure at the University of Rhode Island's Kingston Campus to accelerate the education, research, and workforce development of life sciences for the state. Approval of this bond will allow the University to continue to drive Rhode Island's life sciences economy to develop cutting edge research and create high-wage, high-demand jobs here in Rhode Island.

b) Rhode Island College Cybersecurity Building - \$73,000,000: Approval of this bond will finance renovations to Whipple Hall, built in 1958, for the College's Institute for Cybersecurity and Emerging Technologies to create a regional center of excellence for one of the nation's fast-growing, most vital industries. This facility will not only benefit the enrolled students but will also create a hub for cyber training throughout the entire state.

How much money will be borrowed?

\$160,500,000

Project timetable:

a) University of Rhode Island Biomedical Sciences Building construction is expected to be completed and the project ready for use by the end of 2028.

b) Rhode Island College Cybersecurity Building renovation is expected to commence in 2025. Construction is anticipated to be completed in 2028.

Useful life:

a) The University of Rhode Island estimates that the useful life of the Biomedical Sciences Building will be approximately 50 years.

b) Rhode Island College estimates that the useful life of the renovated Whipple Hall Building will be approximately 50 years.

Total cost:

PROJECT COSTS		COST OF ISSUANCE*		TOTAL PROJECT AND ISSUANCE COSTS		
Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Total Costs
\$159,858,000	\$96,690,186	\$642,000	\$388,314	\$160,500,000	\$97,078,500	\$257,578,500

* Cost of issuance estimated at 0.4% of principal issued.

** Assumes an interest rate of 5%, with bonds amortized with level payments over 20 years.

About Question 3:

What it will look like on the ballot:

3. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY - \$120,000,000

To increase the availability of housing, support community revitalization, and promote home ownership, to be allocated as follows:

- a. Affordable Housing - \$80,000,000
- b. Acquisition and Revitalization - \$10,000,000
- c. Homeownership - \$20,000,000
- d. Site Acquisition - \$5,000,000
- e. Housing Related Infrastructure - \$4,000,000
- f. Municipal Planning - \$1,000,000

- Approve
- Reject

Approve

Your vote to "Approve" means that you support the State issuing \$120,000,000 in general obligation bonds to increase the availability of housing and community opportunity.

Reject

Your vote to "Reject" means that you are against the State issuing \$120,000,000 in general obligation bonds to increase the availability of housing and community opportunity.

Explanation and purpose of Question 3:

Bond funds would increase housing availability and supply, revitalize communities, and promote homeownership. New construction and renovation of existing buildings will increase and preserve housing affordability. Funding has been included for housing related infrastructure and property acquisition. Funds will also return vacant and blighted properties to productive use as community facilities, commercial spaces, and additional housing. Planning funds will help local housing efforts.

How much money will be borrowed?

\$120,000,000

Project timetable:

Housing production and redevelopment projects are expected to begin by 2026 and be completed between approximately 2027 and 2030.

Useful life:

The useful life of the redeveloped and/or newly constructed housing is estimated to be a minimum of 30 years.

Total cost:

PROJECT COSTS		COST OF ISSUANCE*		TOTAL PROJECT AND ISSUANCE COSTS		
Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Total Costs
\$119,520,000	\$72,295,656	\$480,000	\$290,344	\$120,000,000	\$72,586,000	\$192,586,000

* Cost of issuance estimated at 0.4% of principal issued.

** Assumes an interest rate of 5%, with bonds amortized with level payments over 20 years.

About Question 4:

What it will look like on the ballot:

4. GREEN ECONOMY BONDS - \$53,000,000

For environmental and recreational purposes, to be allocated as follows:

- a. Port of Davisville Infrastructure at Quonset - \$15,000,000
- b. Climate Resiliency - \$2,000,000
- c. Brownfields Remediation and Economic Development - \$5,000,000
- d. Local Recreation Projects - \$5,000,000
- e. Municipal Resiliency - \$10,000,000
- f. Newport Cliff Walk - \$3,000,000
- g. Agricultural Land Preservation Commission - \$5,000,000
- h. Open Space Program - \$3,000,000
- i. Forests and Habitat Management - \$5,000,000

Approve

Reject

Approve

Your vote to "Approve" means that you support the State issuing \$53,000,000 in general obligation bonds for environmental and recreational purposes.

Reject

Your vote to "Reject" means that you are against the State issuing \$53,000,000 in general obligation bonds for environmental and recreational purposes.

Explanation and purpose of Question 4:

These bonds would be issued to allow the State to invest in improving the environment and public recreation facilities. The \$53,000,000 will be allocated as outlined below to improve infrastructure at Quonset's Port of Davisville, improve the resilience of coastal habitats and restore river and stream floodplains, remediate contaminated brownfield sites, support local outdoor recreation projects, improve municipal resiliency, restore pedestrian access along the Newport Cliff Walk, protect working farmland, conserve open space, and improve the health of forests on State properties.

Specifically, approval of this question will provide:

- a) Port of Davisville Infrastructure at Quonset - \$15,000,000 for continued growth and modernization at Quonset's Port of Davisville, Rhode Island's only public port. This investment in the World War II-era infrastructure will finance new berthing space, port access roads, cargo laydown area improvements, and security upgrades for the new Terminal Five Pier which accommodates existing import cargo and offshore wind projects.
- b) Climate Resiliency - \$2,000,000 for up to 75 percent matching grants to public and non-profit entities to restore and/or improve the climate resilience of vulnerable coastal habitats and to restore river and stream floodplains. Projects to be funded under this program would improve community resiliency and public safety in the face of increased flooding, major storm events, and environmental degradation.
- c) Brownfields Remediation and Economic Development - \$5,000,000 for the cleanup of former industrial or commercial "brownfield" sites that may be contaminated by hazardous waste or other environmental pollution. Funding is used to provide 80 percent matching grants to public, private, and/or non-profit entities for brownfield remediation projects that bring sites back into productive use, return them to tax rolls, create jobs, and revitalize neighborhoods. Over the past five years, the program has awarded funds to 32 different projects in nine different cities and towns for brownfield remediation and these projects often incorporate resiliency and promote environmental justice and equity.

d) Local Recreation Projects - \$5,000,000 for up to 80 percent in matching grants to municipalities to develop or rehabilitate local public recreational facilities such as parks, playgrounds, and athletic fields, and up to 50 percent in matching grants to municipalities to acquire land for public recreational facilities.

e) Municipal Resiliency - \$10,000,000 to provide financial assistance to municipalities for restoring and/or improving resiliency of infrastructure, vulnerable coastal habitats, and restoring river and stream floodplains. These funds will be prioritized to leverage significant matching funds to support local programs to improve community resiliency and public safety in the face of increased flooding, major storm events, and environmental degradation.

f) Newport Cliff Walk - \$3,000,000 to restore pedestrian access along the Newport Cliff Walk.

g) Agricultural Land Preservation Commission - \$5,000,000 for the State to help protect Rhode Island’s working farms through the Agricultural Land Preservation Commission.

h) Open Space Program - \$3,000,000 for the State Land Acquisition Program allowing the State to acquire fee simple interest or conservation easements to open space, farmland, watershed, and recreation lands. The State would invest these funds in the preservation of working farmland and iconic, scenic, and sensitive natural and recreational resources. The funds will be used to provide opportunities for Rhode Islanders and our visitors to access local agricultural products and recreate, enjoy nature, hike, fish, and hunt. Funds are matched by federal, local, and non-profit sources with every State dollar being matched by three other dollars.

i) Forests and Habitat Management - \$5,000,000 for projects related to the maintenance of forests, wildlife habitat, and related infrastructure on State properties, such as State management areas. Projects may include removal of dead and/or dying trees; tree planting; invasives removal and other forest health and wildlife habitat activities; and the repair and maintenance of fire roads, trails, and bridges to improve and maintain recreational public access and mitigate the risk of wildfire.

How much money will be borrowed?

\$53,000,000

Project timetable:

Most projects will be completed within five years of their commencement.

Useful life:

The useful life of projects varies depending on the project, but most projects will have a useful life of 25 to 50 years. The useful life of open space or farmland conserved is permanent.

Total cost:

PROJECT COSTS		COST OF ISSUANCE*		TOTAL PROJECT AND ISSUANCE COSTS		
Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Total Costs
\$52,788,000	\$31,926,282	\$212,000	\$128,218	\$53,000,000	\$32,054,500	\$85,054,500

* Cost of issuance estimated at 0.4% of principal issued.

** Assumes an interest rate of 5%, with bonds amortized with level payments over 20 years.

About Question 5:

What it will look like on the ballot:

5. CULTURAL ARTS AND THE ECONOMY GRANT PROGRAM - \$10,000,000

For purposes of funding for 1:1 matching grants to continue the Cultural Arts and the Economy Grant Program administered by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA) for capital improvement, preservation and renovation projects for public and non-profit artistic centers, performance centers, museums, and cultural art centers located throughout the State of Rhode Island, to be allocated as follows:

- a. Tomaquag Museum - \$2,000,000
- b. Newport Contemporary Ballet - \$2,000,000
- c. Trinity Repertory Company - \$2,000,000
- d. Other funds to be allocated by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts - \$4,000,000

Approve

Reject

Approve

Your vote to "Approve" means that you support the State issuing \$10,000,000 in general obligation bonds to improve arts and cultural facilities.

Reject

Your vote to "Reject" means that you are against the State issuing \$10,000,000 in general obligation bonds to improve arts and cultural facilities.

Explanation and purpose of Question 5:

This grant program will be administered by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA) to be used to improve arts and cultural facilities, and increase their ability to contribute to the cultural, educational, and economic life of our state. Every community has cultural facilities which contribute to the local economy. Funding will be made available to support public and non-profit artistic centers, performance centers, museums, and cultural art centers located in communities throughout the state, to be allocated as follows:

- a) Tomaquag Museum - \$2,000,000 for a 1:1 matching grant to support the building of the Tomaquag Museum in Kingston on the URI campus to be used for Indigenous cultural education and preservation, including spaces for programming and administration.
- b) Newport Contemporary Ballet - \$2,000,000 for a 1:1 matching grant to support the building of Newport's Center for Arts, Dance & Education to be used for performance facilities, educational instruction, production, and administration.
- c) Trinity Repertory Company - \$2,000,000 for a 1:1 matching grant to expand and upgrade the Lederer Theater Center used for performance facilities, educational instruction, production, and administration.
- d) Other funds to be allocated by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts - \$4,000,000 for 1:1 matching grants to be allocated by RISCA to 501(c)(3) non-profit cultural organizations which lease or own their performance space, and for RISCA expenses in administering the program. In awarding such grants RISCA shall consider financial need, the availability or actual expenditure of matching funds for the projects, available gifts or grants for projects, the amount of square footage to be improved, the geographical location, and characteristics of audiences benefitted.

How much money will be borrowed?

\$10,000,000

Project timetable:

Bond proceeds will be made available to non-profit arts and culture organizations beginning in 2025 and will expect to be awarded for a period of three to five years.

Useful life:

While each project and facility will differ, the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts' expectation is that buildings will remain in service for up to 20 years.

Total cost:

PROJECT COSTS		COST OF ISSUANCE*		TOTAL PROJECT AND ISSUANCE COSTS		
Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Total Costs
\$9,960,000	\$6,028,290	\$40,000	\$24,210	\$10,000,000	\$6,052,500	\$16,052,500

* Cost of issuance estimated at 0.4% of principal issued.

** Assumes an interest rate of 5%, with bonds amortized with level payments over 20 years.

Definitions of Terms

BONDS

A bond is written evidence of the State's obligation to repay money it has borrowed with interest at specified rates and maturity dates.

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

Money spent on capital assets, or items designed to last more than one year, are considered capital investments. These assets may include buildings, land, roads, and even information technology systems.

ELECTRONIC POLL BOOK

The iPads at each polling place that contain the list of registered voters. Poll workers use the electronic poll books to check voters in before voting.

EXPRESSVOTE

An accessible voting unit that can read, mark, and print a ballot card for the voter. This allows voters with reading, vision, and other disabilities to mark their ballot independently.

FISCAL YEAR

A fiscal year is a period of twelve consecutive months which serves as an accounting period for financial reporting purposes. The State's fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND

A general obligation bond is a bond which is secured by the full faith and credit and taxing power of the State.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure systems, such as public transit, education, water, and telecommunications systems, are the basic physical facilities and organizational structures needed for the operation of a municipality or state.

ISSUING BONDS

To "issue" bonds means to sell, deliver, and receive payment for bonds. The State generally issues bonds for particular projects upon determining the amount of cash necessary to implement such projects.

PROVISIONAL VOTING

Provisional voting is a process to ensure that all registered voters are allowed to participate on Election Day. These qualified voters will be allowed to cast the same ballot as all others; however, the disposition (full ballot, federal offices only, or disqualified) of that ballot will be determined by the voter's local board of canvassers. The voter may learn the disposition of the ballot by visiting elections.ri.gov or by calling the State Board of Elections at 401-222-2345.

REFERENDUM

The Rhode Island Constitution requires voters directly make certain decisions instead of the General Assembly. A referendum is the way our legislative body (the General Assembly or town or city council) asks voters to make those decisions on proposals such as constitutional amendments, long-term borrowings like bonds, special laws affecting some cities and towns (like municipal charters), or the expansion of gambling.

The referendum is always asked as a question for voters to approve or reject. Referenda is the plural form of the word referendum.

REFUNDING BONDS

Sometimes, after bonds have been issued by the State, interest rates fall and make it cheaper to refinance existing debt. When that is the case, the state asks voters to approve the issuance of refunding bonds. This means that the State can refinance existing bonds at lower interest rates by calling in and paying off the existing bonds and refinancing them at lower interest rates. When the state issues refunding bonds, it is a similar action as when individuals refinance a mortgage – both save money.

USEFUL LIFE

The period of time an asset is expected to be usable for the purpose it was acquired, built, or established. It is good financial practice to issue bonds for projects with a long useful life.

VOTING ASSISTANCE

A poll worker will explain how to mark your ballot if you ask. The cover of the secrecy folder and the inside wall of the voting booth will also contain instructions on how to mark your ballot.

Per State law, anyone can assist the voter unless they are the voter's employer or agent of that employer, or an officer or agent of the voter's union.

You can request the assistance of a bipartisan pair of poll workers. Federal and state laws allow voters who are blind, disabled, or unable to read or write to bring a person of their choice into the voting booth. The poll worker will have an affidavit that must be completed.

An ExpressVote unit is available at all early voting locations and polling places.

Local Boards of Canvassers

Barrington Town Hall

283 County Rd. 02806
247-1900 x301

Bristol Town Hall

10 Court St. 02809
253-7000

Burrillville Town Hall

105 Harrisville Main St.
Harrisville 02830
568-4300 x132

Central Falls City Hall

580 Broad St. 02863
727-7450

Charlestown Town Hall

4540 South County Trl. 02813
364-1200

Coventry Town Hall

1670 Flat River Rd. 02816
822-9150

Cranston City Hall

869 Park Ave. 02910
780-3121

Cumberland Town Hall

45 Broad St. 02864
728-2400

East Greenwich Town Hall

125 Main St.
P.O. Box 111 02818
886-8603

East Providence City Hall

145 Taunton Ave. 02914
435-7502

Exeter Town Hall

675 Ten Rod Rd. 02822
294-2287

Foster Town Hall

181 Howard Hill Rd. 02825
392-9200 x116

Glocester Town Hall

1145 Putnam Pike
P.O. Drawer B, Chepachet 02814
568-6206 x0

Hopkinton Town Hall

1 Town House Rd. 02833
377-7777

Jamestown Town Hall

93 Narragansett Ave. 02835
423-9801

Johnston Town Hall

1385 Hartford Ave. 02919
553-8856

Lincoln Town Hall

100 Old River Rd.
P.O. Box 100 02865
333-1140

Little Compton Town Hall

40 Commons
P.O. Box 226 02837
635-4400

Middletown Town Hall

350 East Main Rd. 02842
849-5540

Narragansett Town Hall

25 Fifth Ave. 02882
782-0625

Newport City Hall

43 Broadway 02840
845-5384

New Shoreham Town Hall

16 Old Town Rd.
P.O. Box 220 02807
466-3200

North Kingstown Town Hall

100 Fairway Dr. 02852
268-1552

North Providence Town Hall

2000 Smith St. 02911
232-0900 x1230

North Smithfield Town Hall

83 Greene St. 02896
767-2200 x326

Pawtucket City Hall

137 Roosevelt Ave. 02860
722-1637

Portsmouth Town Hall

2200 East Main Rd. 02871
683-3157

Providence City Hall

25 Dorrance St. Rm. 102 02903
421-0495

Richmond Town Hall

5 Richmond Townhouse Rd.
Wyoming 02898
539-9000 x9

Scituate Town Hall

195 Danielson Pike
P.O. Box 328, N. Scituate 02857
647-7466

Smithfield Town Hall

64 Farnum Pike, 02917
233-1000 x116

South Kingstown Town Hall

180 High St.
Wakefield 02879
789-9331 x1231

Tiverton Town Hall

343 Highland Rd. 02878
625-6703

Warren Town Hall

514 Main St. 02885
245-7340 x4

Warwick City Hall

3275 Post Rd. 02886
738-2010

West Greenwich Town Hall

280 Victory Hwy. 02817
392-3800 x100

West Warwick Town Hall

1170 Main St. 02893
822-9201

Westerly Town Hall

45 Broad St. 02891
348-2503

Woonsocket City Hall

169 Main St.
P.O. Box B 02895
767-9223

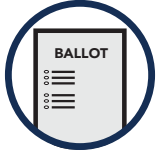
State Board of Elections

2000 Plainfield Pike, Cranston, RI 02921
401-222-2345

Disability Rights Rhode Island

220 Toll Gate Rd., Suite A, Warwick, RI 02886
401-831-3150

Your Voting Plan Checklist



**REVIEW YOUR
BALLOT**



**FIND YOUR
VOTING PLACE**



**BRING A VALID
PHOTO ID**

You can use this checklist to keep track of where and how you will vote.

Remember, your vote is private and you do not need to share it with anyone.

I am voting:

By Mail Early On Election Day at my polling place

Federal

President _____

Vice President _____

U.S. Senator _____

U.S. Representative _____

State

State Senator _____

State Representative _____

Local

Local Office _____

Local Office _____

Local Office _____

Questions

Question 1 Approve Reject

Question 2 Approve Reject

Question 3 Approve Reject

Question 4 Approve Reject

Question 5 Approve Reject



NONPROFIT
ECRWSS
U.S. Postage
PAID
Providence, RI
Permit No. 1358

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

RI DEPARTMENT OF STATE - ELECTIONS DIVISION
148 W RIVER ST STE 1
PROVIDENCE, RI 02904-2615

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER



Printed on Recycled Paper