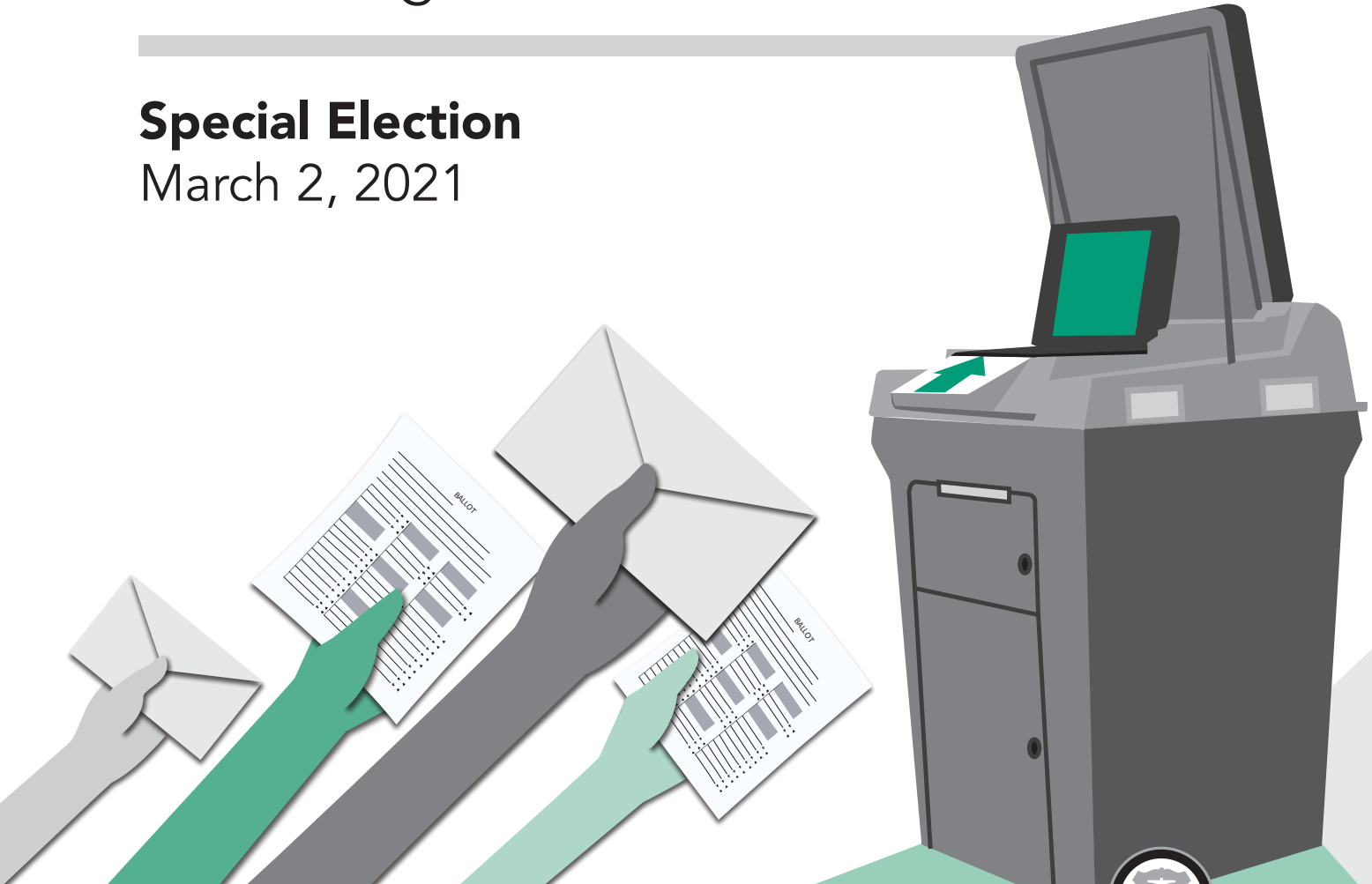


# Voter Information Handbook

A Guide to State Referenda  
and Voting Procedures in Rhode Island

**Special Election**

March 2, 2021



**Nellie M. Gorbea**  
Secretary of State

# Message from the Secretary

Dear Rhode Island Voter:

I am sending you this guide to remind you of the Special Election scheduled for March 2, 2021 to vote on very important ballot measures related to state spending. As your Secretary of State, it is my responsibility to make sure you are able to exercise your right to vote safely and securely. Your vote is your voice in how Rhode Island allocates funding on projects across the state.

As a Rhode Island voter, you have three options for safely and securely casting a ballot and this guide offers more information on each of these voting methods. I urge you to make your voice heard. If you have applied for a mail ballot, be sure to fill out your ballot and return it as quickly as possible (see page 5).

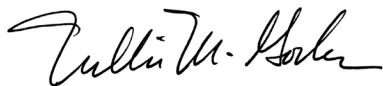
Your guide also contains information about the seven state bond questions you will be asked to approve or reject. Be sure to familiarize yourself with these questions before filling out your ballot.

You can view your sample ballot on your cell phone or your computer by going to our online Voter Information Center ([vote.ri.gov](https://vote.ri.gov)).

Your vote matters. Please help me get this information to as many people as possible by sharing it with your friends and family. This guide is also available on our website ([vote.ri.gov](https://vote.ri.gov)).

If you need additional information, please contact our Elections Division at 401-222-2340, TTY 711; or email us at [elections@sos.ri.gov](mailto:elections@sos.ri.gov).

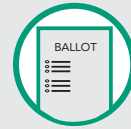
**Make a difference. Be A Voter!**



**Nellie M. Gorbea**  
Secretary of State

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

## Be Voter Ready!



### Preview a sample ballot

You can see a sample of your local ballot by visiting the online Voter Information Center at [vote.ri.gov](https://vote.ri.gov).



### Voting early in-person

Contact your local board of canvassers to determine their early voting hours. See page 19 for contact information.



### Voting on Election Day


Go to [vote.ri.gov](https://vote.ri.gov) to find your polling place.





### Wear a mask when voting in person!


Keep your elections officials safe.


## CONTACT US

 401-222-2340

 [elections@sos.ri.gov](mailto:elections@sos.ri.gov)

 [vote.ri.gov](https://vote.ri.gov)

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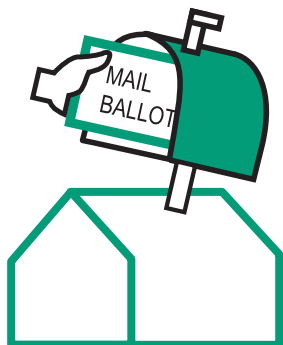
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**WARNING**

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 FROM HOME

Voting from home is a safe and easy option for those voters who do not want to vote in-person.

Voters who completed their mail ballot application and returned it by the deadline (**Tuesday, February 9, 2021 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 IN-PERSON

February 10 - March 1



Call your local board of canvassers for voting hours and accessible voting entrance.



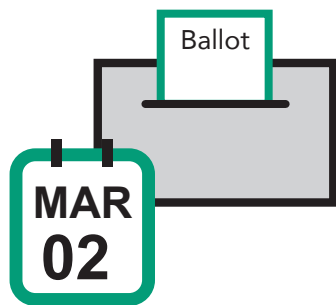
Preview your ballot at **vote.ri.gov**



Bring a valid photo ID



Wear a mask!



### VOTE ON ELECTION DAY



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



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



Bring a valid photo ID



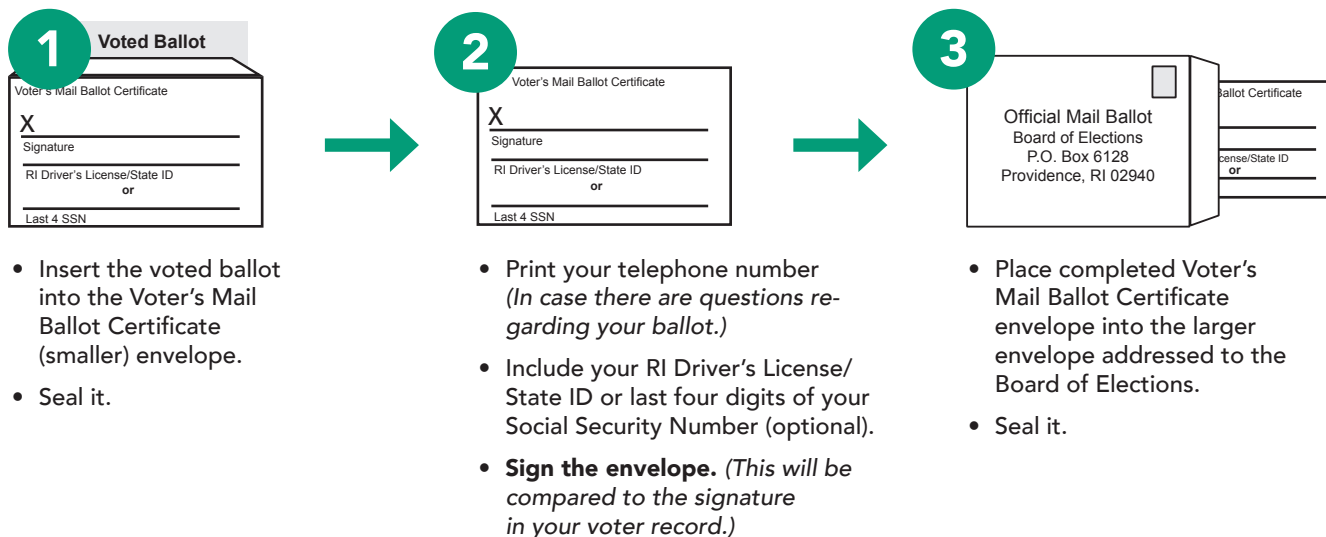
Wear a mask!

# Voting from Home

Voting from home with a mail ballot is a safe and secure option for voters who do not want to vote in-person.

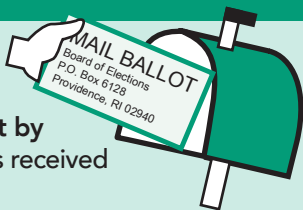
**All mail ballot applications must have been received by 4 p.m. on February 9.** Please contact your local board of canvassers if you missed the application deadline and do not want to vote in-person.

Below are the procedures for securely returning your voted mail ballot:



## RETURN BY MAIL

- No postage necessary
- Be sure to mail your ballot by **February 23** to ensure it is received by Election Day.
- Your ballot must be received by **8 p.m. on Election Day (March 2).**



## RETURN BY DROP BOX

- No postage necessary
- Drop your ballot off at any **24-hour drop box in RI.**
- Must be in a drop box by **8 p.m. on Election Day (March 2).**

**Go to [vote.ri.gov](https://vote.ri.gov) to learn more about drop box locations.**



### ! If you make a mistake when marking the ballot

- If you make a mistake when marking your ballot, **DO NOT** cross out on the ballot.
- Immediately contact the Department of State's Elections Division at 401-222-2340, TDD 711 or via email at [elections@sos.ri.gov](mailto:elections@sos.ri.gov) to make arrangements to receive a replacement ballot.



**Track your ballot**  
**[vote.ri.gov](https://vote.ri.gov)**

### Questions about your ballot?

Contact the Board of Elections: 401-222-2345 or at [boe.elections@elections.ri.gov](mailto:boe.elections@elections.ri.gov).

For general elections questions, call our Elections Division at 401-222-2340.

# Voting In-Person

You have two options for voting in-person. In the 20 days leading up to Election Day, you can vote in-person at your city or town hall during their regular business hours. Or you may 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



WEAR A  
MASK



### Check-in

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

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

#### 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.

**If your name does not appear on the voter list, you do not have an acceptable form of photo ID, or there is another potential 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.



### Mark your ballot

**Read the directions at the top of the ballot.**  
**Check both sides of the ballot.**

Fill in the oval to the left of your choice.

#### If you make a mistake when marking the ballot

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



### 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

## Accessible polling place for elderly, disabled and visually impaired voters

Each polling place will have at least one handicapped-accessible voting booth designated for priority use by voters who are over 65 years of age or have some disability.

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.

Each polling place will also be equipped with a sheet magnifier to assist voters who are visually impaired.



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

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.

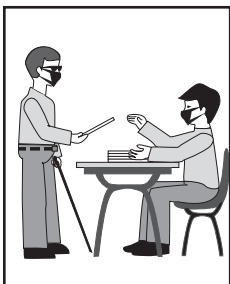
## Using the accessible AutoMark equipment

In accordance with the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and state law, an accessible voting unit (AutoMark) will be available at each polling place for every primary and election.

The AutoMark can read and mark the ballot for the voter. This allows voters with reading, vision and other disabilities to mark their ballot privately and independently.

All registered voters are automatically entitled to use the accessible voting equipment located at each polling place. No special applications are required.

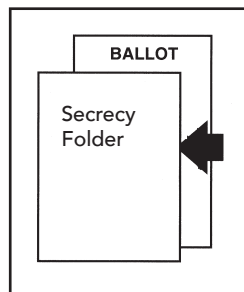
When you arrive at your polling place, you will proceed to the check-in table and tell poll workers that you wish to use the AutoMark to assist in marking your ballot.



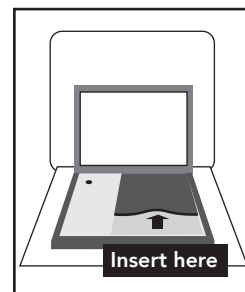
Receive ballot and secrecy folder from the poll worker.



Use the AutoMark unit to mark your ballot in private. Place your ballot into the AutoMark unit. Follow the instructions and make selections by using the keypad or touchscreen.



Insert your ballot into the secrecy folder and go to the voting machine.



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

# State Bond Referenda Questions

**Referenda Questions 1 – 7** involve authorizing the State to borrow money through bonds and temporary notes to make capital investments. (**Chapter 80 – Public Laws 2020**)

## 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
1. Higher Education Facilities	\$107,300,000	\$64,900,592	\$172,200,592
2. Beach, Clean Water and Green Bond	\$74,000,000	\$44,759,029	\$118,759,029
3. Housing and Community Opportunity	\$65,000,000	\$39,315,363	\$104,315,363
4. Transportation Infrastructure State Match	\$71,700,000	\$43,367,870	\$115,067,870
5. Early Childhood Care and Education Capital Fund	\$15,000,000	\$9,072,776	\$24,072,776
6. Cultural Arts and the Economy Grant Program and State Preservation Grants Program	\$7,000,000	\$4,233,962	\$11,233,962
7. Industrial Facilities Infrastructure	\$60,000,000	\$36,291,105	\$96,291,105
<b>TOTAL BORROWING COSTS FOR ALL REFERENDA</b>	<b>\$400,000,000</b>	<b>\$241,940,697</b>	<b>\$641,940,697</b>

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 action of the General Assembly, by an act passed at the January 2020 session, authorizing the issuance of bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes of the state of Rhode Island for the capital projects and in the amount with respect to each such project listed below (Questions 1-7) be approved, and the issuance of bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes authorized in accordance with the provisions of said act?", followed by each bond question.

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 twenty-year period.



About Question 1:

What it will look like on the ballot:

**1. HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES - \$107,300,000**

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

(a) University of Rhode Island Fine Arts Center - \$57,300,000

(b) Rhode Island College Clarke Science Building Renovation - \$38,000,000

(c) Community College of Rhode Island Renovation and Modernization - \$12,000,000

☐ Approve

☐ Reject

Approve

Your vote to “Approve” means that you support the State issuing \$107,300,000 in general obligation bonds to invest in higher education facilities.

Reject

Your vote to “Reject” means that you are against the State issuing \$107,300,000 in general obligation bonds to invest in higher education facilities.

Explanation and purpose of Question 1:

These bonds would provide funds to the State of Rhode Island to pay for higher education-related construction projects:

- (a) University of Rhode Island Fine Arts Center - \$57,300,000  
Approval of these bonds would provide funding to design, renovate and construct a new facility and infrastructure for the Fine Arts Center on the Kingston Campus.
- (b) Rhode Island College Clarke Science Building Renovation - \$38,000,000  
Approval of these bonds would provide funding to renovate and expand the Clarke Science Building.
- (c) Community College of Rhode Island Renovation and Modernization - \$12,000,000  
Approval of these bonds would provide funding to design and renovate the student support and classroom spaces on the Knight and Flanagan campuses to address deferred maintenance and to improve accessibility and functionality.

How much money will be borrowed?

\$107,300,000

Project timetable:

- (a) University of Rhode Island Fine Arts Center construction is expected to be completed, and the building will be ready for use by September 2024.
- (b) Rhode Island College Clarke Science Building Renovation is expected to commence in 2022. Construction is anticipated to be completed in 2024.
- (c) Community College of Rhode Island Knight and Flanagan campus renovations are expected to commence in December 2021. Construction is anticipated to be completed on or about March 2023.

Useful life:

- (a) The University of Rhode Island estimates that the useful life of the newly renovated Fine Arts Center will be approximately 50 years.
- (b) Rhode Island College estimates that the useful life of the renovated Clarke Science Building will be approximately 50 years.
- (c) The Community College of Rhode Island estimates that the useful life of the Knight and Flanagan campus renovations will be approximately 30 years.

Total cost:

PROJECT COSTS		COST OF ISSUANCE*		TOTAL PROJECT AND ISSUANCE COSTS		
Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Total Costs
\$106,871,000	\$64,640,592	\$429,000	\$260,000	\$107,300,000	\$64,900,592	\$172,200,592

\* 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 2:

### What it will look like on the ballot:

#### **2. BEACH, CLEAN WATER AND GREEN BOND - \$74,000,000**

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

- (a) State Beaches, Parks, and Campgrounds - \$33,000,000
- (b) I-195 Park - \$4,000,000
- (c) Local Recreation Projects - \$4,000,000
- (d) Natural and Working Lands - \$3,000,000
- (e) Clean Water and Drinking Water - \$15,000,000
- (f) Municipal Resiliency - \$7,000,000
- (g) Providence River Dredging - \$6,000,000
- (h) Woonasquatucket River Watershed - \$2,000,000

☐ **Approve**

☐ **Reject**

#### **Approve**

---

Your vote to "Approve" means that you support the State issuing \$74,000,000 in general obligation bonds for environmental and recreational purposes.

#### **Reject**

---

Your vote to "Reject" means that you are against the State issuing \$74,000,000 in general obligation bonds for environmental and recreational purposes.

### Explanation and purpose of Question 2:

These bonds would be issued to allow the State to invest in improving the environment and public recreation facilities. The \$74,000,000 will be allocated as outlined below for major capital improvements at state beaches, parks, and campgrounds, for park infrastructure on the former I-195 land, for local recreation projects, to protect natural and working lands, for clean water and drinking water projects, to improve municipal resiliency, to dredge the Providence River, and for recreation and infrastructure improvements along the Woonasquatucket River Greenway.

Specifically, approval of this question will provide:

- (a) \$33,000,000 for major capital improvements at state beaches, parks, and campgrounds. Funds will be used for new or upgraded facilities at locations such as Goddard Memorial State Park, Roger Wheeler State Beach, Scarborough State Beach, Misquamicut State Beach, Colt State Park, Brenton Point State Park, and state campgrounds.
- (b) \$4,000,000 for park infrastructure development on the former I-195 land in Providence. The nearly 7-acre park spans both sides of the Providence River and is connected by a pedestrian bridge that opened in 2019. Funds will be used to construct park infrastructure to enhance utilities, support park operations and programming, and enable food and beverage service.
- (c) \$4,000,000 for up to 80% matching grants for municipalities to acquire, develop, or rehabilitate local outdoor recreation facilities such as parks, playgrounds, and athletic fields.
- (d) \$3,000,000 to protect forested land and working farmland across Rhode Island through the purchase of conservation easements. This funding will enable farmers to remain in business and keep land productive. It will also protect forested lands and the associated benefits that they provide including cleaning our drinking water, providing habitat for wildlife, sequestering carbon emissions, and providing economic opportunities for rural communities.

- (e) \$15,000,000 for investment in the Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds to improve the quality of our state’s waters. These funds will be used to unlock \$75,000,000 in federal funds for infrastructure improvements, including drinking water and wastewater treatment upgrades, stormwater quality improvements, combined sewer overflow abatement projects, and water distribution system improvements. These projects help to improve water quality by reducing pollution, ensure access to safe drinking water, and promote economic development.
- (f) \$7,000,000 for up to 75% matching grants to municipalities for restoring and/or improving the resiliency of infrastructure, vulnerable coastal habitats, river and stream floodplains, and watersheds. These grants will help cities and towns to identify top hazards, improve community resiliency, and strengthen public safety in the face of increased flooding and more frequent and intense storm events.
- (g) \$6,000,000 for dredging of the Providence River for purposes of economic development, infrastructure maintenance, enhanced tourism opportunities, and improved water depths for boating, recreation, and climate resiliency.
- (h) \$2,000,000 for the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council to develop, improve, and rehabilitate public recreational projects and infrastructure along the Woonasquatucket River and its Greenway, from North Smithfield and Glocester through Smithfield, North Providence, Johnston and Providence.

**How much money will be borrowed?**  
 \$74,000,000

**Project timetable:**  
 We anticipate most projects will be completed within five years of their commencement.

**Useful life:**  
 The Department of Environmental Management estimates the useful life of the improvements to be made to parks, beaches, campgrounds, local recreational facilities, water infrastructure, and local municipal facilities to be 25 to 50 years.

The Department of Environmental Management estimates the useful life of forested land and working farmland to be permanent.

The Coastal Resources Management Council estimates the useful life of dredging the Downtown Providence River to be approximately up to 20 years.

**Total cost:**

PROJECT COSTS		COST OF ISSUANCE*		TOTAL PROJECT AND ISSUANCE COSTS		
Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Total Costs
\$73,704,000	\$44,580,029	\$296,000	\$179,000	\$74,000,000	\$44,759,029	\$118,759,029

\* 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 -  
\$65,000,000

To increase the availability of affordable housing and support community revitalization through the redevelopment of existing structures, new construction, and property acquisition.

☐ Approve

☐ Reject

Approve

Your vote to "Approve" means that you support the State issuing \$65,000,000 in general obligation bonds to improve housing affordability and support community revitalization efforts.

Reject

Your vote to "Reject" means that you are against the State issuing \$65,000,000 in general obligation bonds to improve housing affordability and support community revitalization efforts.

Explanation and purpose of Question 3:

These funds would be used to increase the availability of affordable housing and support community revitalization through the redevelopment of existing structures, new construction, and property acquisition.

How much money will be borrowed?

\$65,000,000

Project timetable:

Redevelopment of existing structures and/or the new construction of affordable housing is expected to commence as early as 2021 and to be completed by 2026.

Useful life:

The useful life of the redeveloped and/or newly constructed affordable 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
\$64,740,000	\$39,158,363	\$260,000	\$157,000	\$65,000,000	\$39,315,363	\$104,315,363

\* 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. TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE STATE MATCH  
- \$71,700,000**

To match federal funds and provide direct funding for needed and planned improvements to the state’s transportation infrastructure, including ports, highways, roads, and bridges.

☐

Approve

☐

Reject

**Approve**

Your vote to “Approve” means that you support the State issuing \$71,700,000 in general obligation bonds to match federal transportation funds.

**Reject**

Your vote to “Reject” means that you are against the State issuing \$71,700,000 in general obligation bonds to match federal transportation funds.

Explanation and purpose of Question 4:

To provide funds to the Department of Transportation to continue the reconstruction of Rhode Island’s deficient roads and bridges.

The \$71.7 million in this bond will be combined with \$286.8 million funding by the federal government to provide a total of \$358.5 million additional dollars to be used solely for the purpose of continuing the rebuilding of Rhode Island’s deficient roads and bridges.

How much money will be borrowed?

\$71,700,000

Project timetable:

The bond proceeds combined with the federal funding will be used in fiscal year 2021 and fiscal year 2022.

Useful life:

While each project will differ, the useful life of a bridge can be up to 75 years.

Total cost:

PROJECT COSTS		COST OF ISSUANCE*		TOTAL PROJECT AND ISSUANCE COSTS		
Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Total Costs
\$71,413,000	\$43,194,870	\$287,000	\$173,000	\$71,700,000	\$43,367,870	\$115,067,870

\* 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. EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION CAPITAL FUND - \$15,000,000**

For physical improvements to and development of licensed early childhood care and education facilities through an Early Childhood Care and Education Capital Fund.

☐ Approve

☐ Reject

**Approve**

Your vote to “Approve” means that you support the State issuing \$15,000,000 in general obligation bonds to fund physical space improvements for early childhood education facilities across Rhode Island.

**Reject**

Your vote to “Reject” means that you are against the State issuing \$15,000,000 in general obligation bonds to fund physical space improvements for early childhood education facilities across Rhode Island.

Explanation and purpose of Question 5:

These bonds would provide funds for the creation of an Early Childhood Facilities Fund, administered under supervision of the Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS), to improve the quality of early childhood education facilities across the State.

Early learning centers and public school buildings suffer from deferred maintenance. Early Childhood Facilities Needs Assessment indicate that more than half of buildings used for early childhood classrooms were in “poor” condition, and the majority of outdoor play spaces posed significant safety concerns.

The funding would be distributed through small grants for urgent health and safety needs and provide for quality improvement and reconfiguration of space; a larger pool to address the creation or rehabilitation of vacant or blighted properties to create new, high quality spaces; and a set aside for intensive project technical support, training and compliance.

How much money will be borrowed?

\$15,000,000

Project timetable:

The Department of Human Services plans to disburse bond proceeds over a three-year time period commencing in fiscal year 2022.

Useful life:

While each project and facility will differ, the Department of Human Services’ expectation is that investments will have a useful life of between 10 and 20 years.

Total cost:

PROJECT COSTS		COST OF ISSUANCE*		TOTAL PROJECT AND ISSUANCE COSTS		
Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Total Costs
\$14,940,000	\$9,036,776	\$60,000	\$36,000	\$15,000,000	\$9,072,776	\$24,072,776

\* 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 6:

What it will look like on the ballot:

**6. CULTURAL ARTS AND THE ECONOMY GRANT PROGRAM AND STATE PRESERVATION GRANTS PROGRAM - \$7,000,000**

To fund the Cultural Arts and the Economy Grant Program and the State Preservation Grants Program, to be allocated as follows:

(a) Cultural Arts and the Economy Grant Program - \$6,000,000

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 for capital improvement, preservation and renovation projects for public and nonprofit artistic, performance centers, museums and cultural art centers located throughout the State of Rhode Island as follows:

- Trinity Repertory Company - \$2,500,000
- Rhode Island Philharmonic - \$1,500,000
- Other funds to be allocated by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts - \$2,000,000

(b) State Preservation Grants Program - \$1,000,000

☐ Approve

☐ Reject

Approve

Your vote to "Approve" means that you support the State issuing \$7,000,000 in general obligation bonds to fund cultural arts programs.

Reject

Your vote to "Reject" means that you are against the State issuing \$7,000,000 in general obligation bonds to fund cultural arts programs.

Explanation and purpose of Question 6:

These bonds will be used to improve arts, cultural [and historic] facilities, and increase their ability to contribute to the cultural, educational and economic life of our State. Every community has cultural [and historic] facilities which contribute to the local economy. Funding will be made available to support public and nonprofit artistic, performance centers, historic sites, museums and cultural art centers located in communities throughout the State, to be allocated as follows:

- (a) Cultural Arts and the Economy Grant Program - \$6,000,000
- Trinity Repertory Company - \$2,500,000
- For the Lederer Theater and the Pell Chafee Performance Center, both in Providence, used for performance facilities, educational instruction, production and administration.
- Rhode Island Philharmonic - \$1,500,000
- For the Carter Center for Music Education and Performance in East Providence, used for music teaching, learning, performance and administration.
- Other funds to be allocated by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA) - \$2,000,000
- For 1:1 matching grants to be allocated by RISCA to 501(c)(3) nonprofit 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.

(b) State Preservation Grants Program - \$1,000,000

Provides \$1,000,000 in funding to cities, towns and nonprofit organizations to preserve, renovate and improve public and nonprofit historic sites, museums, and cultural art centers located in historic structures in the State of Rhode Island to be administered by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission.

How much money will be borrowed?

\$7,000,000

Project timetable:

Bond proceeds will be made available to nonprofit arts organizations [and historic properties] beginning in 2021 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
\$6,972,000	\$4,216,962	\$28,000	\$17,000	\$7,000,000	\$4,233,962	\$11,233,962

\* 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 7:

What it will look like on the ballot:

**7. INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES INFRASTRUCTURE - \$60,000,000**

To fund industrial facilities infrastructure improvements, to be allocated as follows:

(a) Industrial Site Development - \$40,000,000

(b) Port of Davisville Infrastructure at Quonset - \$20,000,000

☐

Approve

☐

Reject

**Approve**

Your vote to “Approve” means that you support the State issuing \$60,000,000 in general obligation bonds to fund industrial facilities infrastructure improvements.

**Reject**

Your vote to “Reject” means that you are against the State issuing \$60,000,000 in general obligation bonds to fund industrial facilities infrastructure improvements.

Explanation and purpose of Question 7:

These bonds would provide funds for economic development activity through the Quonset Development Corporation (“QDC”).

- (a) Industrial Site Development - \$40,000,000

Provides \$40 million to replicate Quonset’s “Site Readiness” initiative throughout Rhode Island. Funds would facilitate the preparation of business-ready parcels for purposes related to manufacturing and other activities. QDC would administer the effort, including small grants for pre-development purposes.
- (b) Port of Davisville Infrastructure at Quonset - \$20,000,000

Provides \$20 million for continued growth and modernization at Quonset’s Port of Davisville, Rhode Island’s only public port. This investment will finance construction of a new Pier, the rehabilitation of Pier One (built in 1941) and dredging to accommodate offshore wind project cargo while maintaining the Port’s existing businesses.

How much money will be borrowed?  
\$60,000,000

**Project timetable:**

(a) The QDC is prepared to begin work immediately.

(b) Construction at the Port of Davisville is already underway. These funds would finance additional necessary work supporting the completion of the Port Master Plan.

**Useful life:**

(a) QDC estimates that the Site Development effort would produce economic benefits for Rhode Island indefinitely.

(b) QDC estimates that the useful life of the improvements at the Port of Davisville 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
\$59,760,000	\$36,146,105	\$240,000	\$145,000	\$60,000,000	\$36,291,105	\$96,291,105

\* 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

## AUTOMARK

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

## 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.

## E-POLL BOOK

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

## 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.

## POLLING PLACE

A voting location where voters cast their ballot on Election Day. Every voter is assigned a polling location based on where they live.

## 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 then learn

the disposition of the ballot by visiting [elections.ri.gov](https://elections.ri.gov) or by calling the Board of Elections at 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.

## VOTE EARLY IN-PERSON

The option for voters to vote in-person at their city/town hall on the 20 days leading up to Election Day.

## VOTE FROM HOME

The option for voters to apply for and receive their ballot at home, also referred to as a mail ballot or absentee ballot.

## Local Boards of Canvassers

**Barrington Town Hall**  
283 County Rd. 02806  
247-1900 x1

**Bristol Town Hall**  
10 Court St. 02809  
253-7000 x2

**Burrillville Town Hall**  
105 Harrisville Main St.  
Harrisville 02830  
568-4300 x7

**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  
475-9040

**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 x1

**Glocester Town Hall**  
1145 Putnam Pike  
P.O. Box 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  
845-5386

**New Shoreham Town Hall**  
16 Old Town Rd.  
P.O. Box 220 02807  
466-3200

**North Kingstown Town Hall**  
100 Fairway Dr. 02852  
268-1553

**North Providence Town Hall**  
2000 Smith St. 02911  
232-0900 x234

**North Smithfield Town Hall**  
83 Greene St. 02896  
767-2200 x504

**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.  
Room 102 02903  
680-5525

**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  
647-2822 x1

**Smithfield Town Hall**  
64 Farnum Pike  
Esmond 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 x108

**West Warwick Town Hall**  
1170 Main St. 02893  
827-9038

**Westerly Town Hall**  
45 Broad St. 02891  
348-2503

**Woonsocket City Hall**  
169 Main St.  
P.O. Box B 02895  
767-9221

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## State Board of Elections

2000 Plainfield Pike, Cranston, RI 02921  
401.222.2345

## Disability Rights Rhode Island

33 Broad Street, Suite 601, Providence, RI 02903  
401.831.3150



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Secretary of State

State House

Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1120

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