

State Questions

QUESTIONS 1 - 3
(Chapter 231 Public Laws 2022)

Shall the action of the General Assembly, by an act passed at the January 2022 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 1-3) be approved, and the issuance of bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes authorized in accordance with the provisions of said act?

1. UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND NARRAGANSETT BAY CAMPUS - \$100,000,000

For repairs and to construct new facilities on the University of Rhode Island's Narragansett Bay Campus in support of the educational and research needs for the marine disciplines.

Approve
 Reject

2. RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL BUILDINGS - \$250,000,000

To provide funding for the construction, renovation, and rehabilitation of the state's public schools.

Approve
 Reject

3. GREEN ECONOMY BONDS - \$50,000,000

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

- a. Municipal Resiliency - \$16,000,000
- b. Small Business Energy Loan Program - \$5,000,000
- c. Narragansett Bay and Watershed Restoration - \$3,000,000
- d. Forest Restoration - \$3,000,000
- e. Brownfields Remediation and Economic Development - \$4,000,000
- f. State Land Acquisition Program - \$3,000,000
- g. Local Land Acquisition Matching Grant Program - \$2,000,000
- h. Local Recreation Development Matching Grant Program - \$2,000,000
- i. Roger Williams Park and Zoo - \$12,000,000

Approve
 Reject

Local Questions

Questions 4 – 14 Amendments to Coventry Home Rule Charter
(Vote of the Town Council July 25, 2022)

4. TOWN COUNCIL – NUMBER

Shall section 3.01, 3.11, 3.12 and 3.13 be amended so that, in addition to the five (5) existing members of the Town Council (one from each of the five districts), there shall be two (2) at-large Town Council members, who shall be elected town-wide, by all of the electors of the town, and whose term of office shall be the same number of years as the five existing Town Council members?

Approve
 Reject

Local Questions

5. TOWN COUNCIL – TERM

Shall section 3.01 be amended so that the term of office of all members of the Town Council shall be two (2) years and not four (4) years?

Approve
 Reject

6. SCHOOL COMMITTEE – NUMBER

Shall section 4.01 be amended so that, in addition to the five (5) existing members of the School Committee (one from each of the five districts), there shall be two (2) at-large School Committee members, who shall be elected town-wide, by all of the electors of the town, whose term of office shall be the same number of years as the five existing town council members?

Approve
 Reject

7. SCHOOL COMMITTEE – TERM

Shall section 4.02 be amended so that the term of office of all members of the School Committee shall be two (2) years and not four (4) years?

Approve
 Reject

8. TOWN COUNCIL – STIPEND

Shall the Town Council member stipend be increased to no less than \$4,500, and not more than \$6,500 and that an additional stipend of \$1,500 for the President of the Town Council, by amendment to Section 3.10?

Approve
 Reject

9. SCHOOL COMMITTEE – STIPEND

Shall the School Committee member stipend be increased to no less than \$4,500 and not more than \$6,500 and an additional stipend of \$1,500 for the Chair of the School Committee, in a new Charter section in chapter 4?

Approve
 Reject

10. TOWN SOLICITOR - APPOINTMENT

Shall section 7.01 be amended so that the Town Council (and not the Town Manager), appoint the Town Solicitor?

Approve
 Reject

11. CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION – MEMBERSHIP, QUALIFICATION

Shall voters be allowed to serve on two successive charter review commissions, and shall no more than two non-managerial town employees be allowed to serve on the Charter Review Commission, by amending section 15.20?

Approve
 Reject

Local Questions

12. AMENDMENT OF CHARTER – COMPREHENSIVE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Shall there be, in addition to the current charter review commission, a "comprehensive charter review commission" which shall meet once every 25 years, composed of nine members, with the first commission to be appointed at such time as deemed appropriate by the Town Council, and to propose changes, which after approval by the Town Council shall be presented to the electors of the town for approval, to be designated as a new section of the Charter?

Approve
 Reject

13. TOWN COUNCIL, SCHOOL COMMITTEE – FILLING VACANCIES

Shall the current requirement for filling vacancies on the Town Council and School Committee (sections 3.06 and 4.03) be amended to require:

1. A Town Council appointment to fill the vacancy if the office becomes vacant less than twelve (12) months before the end of the term of office, after advertising the position; but
2. If the vacancy occurs with more than twelve (12) months remaining in the elected term but within twelve (12) months of the next State of Rhode Island General Election, the unexpired term will be filled by a special election held concurrent with the next State of Rhode Island General Election; but
3. If the vacancy occurs with more than twelve (12) months remaining in the elected term and more than twelve (12) months before the next State of Rhode Island General Election, a special election shall be called by the Town Clerk in the manner prescribed by law to fill such vacancy; and
4. If a vacancy occurs in the timeframe of subsection 2 but outside the time requirements for having the said special election occur concurrent to the next State of Rhode Island General Election, the vacancy shall be filled in such manner as if it had occurred under subsection 3?

Approve
 Reject

14. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS – TOWN BUDGET, ALTERNATE BUDGET

Shall section 8.18(a) through (d) be amended to provide that after a public hearing, the Town Council shall adopt a budget by super majority vote, which shall be a majority plus one vote, but if the Town Council fails to adopt the initial budget, the Town Manager shall propose an alternate budget for the Town Council's consideration?

If the Town Council adopts the Town Manager's alternate budget by super majority vote, then the budget is adopted. If the alternate budget is not adopted, there shall be an all-day referendum of the initial budget and the alternate budget. The budget receiving the greater number of votes shall become the budget.

Approve
 Reject

15. RHODE ISLAND CANNABIS ACT – LOCAL LICENSING
(Resolution No. 53-22-5396 of the Town Council adopted July 25, 2022)

Shall new cannabis-related licenses for businesses involved in the cultivation, manufacture, laboratory testing, and for the retail sale of adult recreational use cannabis be issued in the Town of Coventry?

Approve
 Reject