

State Questions

QUESTIONS 1 - 3 (Chapter 047 - Public Laws 2018)

Shall the action of the General Assembly, by an act passed at the January 2018 session, authorizing the issuance of bonds, refunding bonds, and/or 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/or temporary notes authorized in accordance with the provisions of said act?

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

To provide state assistance to cities and towns for the construction of new public schools and renovation of existing public schools.

- ☐ Approve
☐ Reject

2. HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES - \$70,000,000

For higher education facilities, to be allocated as follows:

- (a) University of Rhode Island
Narragansett Bay Campus
- \$45,000,000
(b) Rhode Island College School of
Education and Human
Development - \$25,000,000

- ☐ Approve
☐ Reject

3. GREEN ECONOMY AND CLEAN WATER - \$47,300,000

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

- (a) Coastal Resiliency and Public
Access Projects - \$5,000,000
(b) Capital for Clean Water and
Drinking Water - \$7,900,000
(c) Wastewater Treatment Facility
Resilience Improvements
- \$5,000,000
(d) Dam Safety - \$4,400,000
(e) Dredging - Downtown Providence
Rivers - \$7,000,000
(f) State Bikeway Development
Program - \$5,000,000
(g) Brownfield Remediation and
Economic Development
- \$4,000,000
(h) Local Recreation Projects
- \$5,000,000
(i) Access to Farmland - \$2,000,000
(j) Local Open Space - \$2,000,000

- ☐ Approve
☐ Reject

Local Questions

4. WATER SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS \$1,000,000 (Resolution of Town Council adopted on July 16, 2018)

Shall the Town of North Smithfield finance water system infrastructure improvements through the issuance of general obligation bonds and notes therefor in an amount not to exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000)?

- ☐ Approve
☐ Reject

QUESTIONS 5 - 13 AMENDMENTS TO THE NORTH SMITHFIELD HOME RULE CHARTER (Resolution of the Town Council adopted on July 26, 2018)

Shall the North Smithfield Town Charter be amended in the following ways?

5. Form of Government. Amends: Article I. Basic Provisions; Article IV. Town Council; Article V. Town Administrator; Article IX. Town Clerk; Article XI. Director of Public Safety

Commencing on December 1, 2020, shall the form of government be changed from an elected Town Administrator to a Town Administrator appointed by the Town Council, with the following changes being made to the Charter:

(a) to provide that there shall be a full-time town administrator who shall be appointed by a minimum 4/5 (four-fifths) vote of the Town Council. The initial employment contract of any appointed town administrator shall not exceed three years;
(b) to provide that the town administrator shall possess a bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration or a related field. A master's degree in public administration, business management or a related field is desirable. Higher education degrees must be from an accredited college or university. The town administrator shall have at least ten years of progressive managerial and supervisory experience in government or industry which together with an appropriate educational background indicate diverse skills and success in managing personnel, programs and budgets, or any combination of education and experience that is substantially equivalent;

(c) to provide that the town administrator shall receive salary and benefits as may be determined by the Town Council according to the person's experience, education and training. The compensation should be agreed upon before appointment with the understanding that the Town Council may change the compensation at its discretion provided the change does not violate the terms of the employment contract;

(d) to perform his/her duties during his/her temporary absence or disability, the town administrator may, with the advice and consent of the Town Council, appoint a qualified administrative officer, not a councilmember, of the Town as acting administrator. In the event of failure of the administrator to make such designation, the Town Council may by resolution appoint any administrative officer, not a councilmember, of the Town to perform the duties of the administrator until he or she shall return or his/her disability shall cease. While so acting, he or she shall have the same powers and duties as those given to and imposed on the Town Administrator. The Town Administrator shall submit to a medical exam at the request of the Town Council to determine disability;

(e) to provide that in seeking candidates the Town Council shall appoint a search committee of nine members, two of whom shall be members of the

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Town Council, two of whom shall be members of the School Committee, one of whom shall be a school administrator, one of whom shall be a member of the Personnel Board and three of whom shall be citizens of the Town who are not holding elective office and are not compensated employees of the Town. The Committee may, in its discretion, engage a professional search firm and the Council shall appropriate sufficient funds to allow the Committee to engage such firm, to place appropriate advertisements and to meet such other expenses as the Town Council and Committee deem appropriate;

(f) to require that the Town Administrator shall devote full time to the business of the Town and shall not hold any other public office, elected or appointed, nor shall the person serving as Town Administrator engage in any other business, occupation or profession unless such action is approved, in advance, by the Town Council. The Town Council may, by ordinance, establish other qualifications for the office of Town Administrator;

(g) to provide that the town administrator shall be the chief administrative officer of the town and shall be responsible for the administration of all departments, offices and agencies except as otherwise provided by this charter;

(h) to provide that the town administrator shall appoint and remove for cause any officer or employee of the town, with Town Council approval;

(i) to require that the town administrator shall notify the Town Council of all his or her recommended appointments, which shall be in writing and filed with the town clerk;

(j) to provide that town administrator shall not possess or exercise veto power;

(k) to require that the town administrator shall attend all regular Town Council meetings;

(l) to provide that the town administrator shall perform such other duties as may be required of him or her by ordinance or resolution of the Town Council as permitted by the employment contract;

(m) to provide that the Town Council may, by resolution, establish a procedure governing the removal of the Town Administrator in accordance with the terms of his/her employment contract;

(n) to provide that there shall be a town clerk who shall be appointed by the Town Council for an indefinite term;

(o) to provide that the duties of the director of public safety shall be performed by the town administrator, unless directed otherwise by the Town Council;

(p) to provide that the Town Council President shall preside at meetings of the Town Council and shall be recognized as the head of the Town government for all ceremonial purposes;

(q) to provide that in the event of a vacancy in the office of town administrator, caused by resignation or death during the period of time from December 1, 2018 until December 1, 2020, the Town Council shall appoint a town administrator to fill such vacancy pursuant to the selection process provided herein; and

(r) to make additional technical changes to reconcile existing language in the Charter with the change to a Town Administrator appointed by the Town Council?

Explanation: If Ballot Question #5 is approved by a majority of the eligible voters, then, the town administrator will be appointed by the town council and will not be elected to a term of office commencing on December 1, 2020.

- ☐ Approve
☐ Reject



Mail Voter
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State of Rhode Island Official Ballot
General Election
November 6, 2018
North Smithfield

Precinct 2501



To mark your choice
Fill in the oval to the left of
your choice.
Do not make any marks
outside of the oval.

Local Questions

6. Town Administrator.
Amends: Article V. Town
Administrator

Commencing on December 1, 2020,
shall Article V. Town Administrator be
amended to provide that the town
administrator be elected to serve for
a term of four (4) years?

Explanation: If Ballot Question #5 is
rejected by a majority of the eligible
voters, then Ballot Question #6 will
determine if the term of office for an
elected town administrator should be
increased to four (4) years
commencing on December 1, 2020.

- ☐ Approve
☐ Reject

7. Term Limits. Amends:
Article II. Elections

Commencing on December 1, 2020,
shall Article II. Elections be amended
to provide that all elected officials
shall serve terms that shall not
exceed eight (8) consecutive years?

Explanation: If Ballot Question #7 is
approved by a majority of the eligible
voters, then commencing on
December 1, 2020, elected officials
shall serve terms that shall not
exceed eight (8) consecutive years.

- ☐ Approve
☐ Reject

8. School Department.
Amends: Article XIV. School
Department

Commencing on December 1, 2020,
shall Article XIV School Department
be amended to decrease the
composition of the school committee
from seven (7) members to five (5)
members who shall be elected and
removing the appointment of two
members (one by the town council
and one by the town administrator)?

Explanation: If Ballot Question #8 is
approved by a majority of the eligible
voters, then commencing on
December 1, 2020, the two members
of the school committee appointed by
the town council and town
administrator will be removed and the
school committee will be decreased to
five (5) members elected at large
and continue to serve four (4) year
staggered terms as provided in the
Charter.

- ☐ Approve
☐ Reject

Local Questions

9. Recall. Amends: Article II.
Elections

Shall Article II Elections be amended
as follows:

- (a) to provide that the reasons
that constitute cause for recall shall
include but not be limited to: (1)
willful violation of any provisions of
the Town Charter or Ordinance, (2)
conviction of a felony, (3) willful
neglect of duties, (4) corrupt or willful
malfeasance in office and (5) willful
misconduct to the injury of the public
service; and
(b) decrease the number of
registered voters required to sign a
recall petition to thirty (30) percent of
the votes cast in the most recent
election of the office held by the
official named in the petition?

Explanation: If Ballot Question #9 is
approved by a majority of the eligible
voters, then a non exclusive list of
reasons that constitute cause for
recall will be written in the Charter
and the number of registered voters
required to sign a recall petition will
be reduced to thirty (30) percent of
the votes cast in the most recent
election of the office held by the
official named in the petition.

- ☐ Approve
☐ Reject

10. Debt Limit. Amends: Article
VII. Department of Finance

Shall Article VII. Department of
Finance be amended to change the
debt limit without referendum from a
fixed number of \$200,000 to one
percent (1%) of the gross Town
budget?

Explanation: If Ballot Question #10 is
approved by a majority of the eligible
voters, then the amount of money the
Town can borrow without a
referendum will be increased to one
percent (1%) of the gross Town
budget.

- ☐ Approve
☐ Reject

Local Questions

11. Asset Management
Commission. Amends: Article
XV. Other Officers and
Commissions; Article XII.
Planning Board; Article III.
Financial Provisions of the
Town

Shall an "Asset Management
Commission" be created with the
following changes being made to the
Charter:

- (a) amend Article XV. Other
Officers and Commissions by
creating a new section entitled "Asset
Management Commission" providing
that there shall be Asset
Management Commission appointed
by the Town Council, the terms and
membership to be set by the Town
Council. Qualifications shall include,
however not limited to, experience in
construction and facilities
management, architectural and civil
engineering, real estate and finance.
The Commission shall be responsible
for the following:

1. Compile an inventory of all
land, buildings and vehicles owned
by the Town.

2. Assess the condition of all
buildings and establish and prioritize
the need for major repairs or
renovations.

3. Prepare and present to the
Council a list of Town-owned
property that could be sold or
transferred. The Commission shall
identify and recommend sites to be
acquired for projects identified on the
priority list.

4. Prepare with input from all
departments of Town government, a
list of projected capital expenditures
for five and ten year periods;
prioritize the list and recommend
sources of funding. The Commission
shall annually report to the Town
Administrator and Town Council its
recommendations.

5. Any project for which a
Town department seeks funding, the
initial review of the request including
planning, cost estimates for the
project, and future operating costs
associated with the project shall be
done by the Commission with
assistance of the department making
the request. Any building committee
designated to build the project shall
include representatives from the
Asset Management Commission. All
building committees shall be
appointed by the Town Council.

6. The Commission on
request of the Town Council may
perform other specified tasks. The
Town Administrator shall provide
necessary resources to the
Commission to carry out its
responsibilities;

(b) amend Article III Section 6 to
require that all capital budget
requests shall be submitted to the
Asset Management Commission by
the first Monday in February and the
Asset Management Commission
shall make its recommendation to the
budget committee by April 1;

(c) amend Article XII Section
2(3) to change text "prepare and
recommend to the town council" to
"review and comment to the Asset
Management Commission in regards to
the" capital budget for the following
year and a comprehensive six-year
capital improvement program on an
annual basis; and

(d) to make additional technical
changes to reconcile existing
language in the Charter with creating
an Asset Management Commission?

Explanation: If Ballot Question #11 is
approved by a majority of the eligible
voters, then an Asset Management
Commission will be created in the
Charter.

- ☐ Approve
☐ Reject

Local Questions
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Local Questions

12. Town Planner. Amends: Article XII

Shall the position of "Town Planner" be codified with the following changes being made to the Charter:

(a) amend Article XII creating a new section entitled "Town Planner" providing that there shall be a Town Planner, who shall be qualified by virtue of education and experience as a community planner and who shall be appointed by the Town Administrator. The Planning Board shall make three (3) recommendations to the Town Administrator during the selection process. The final appointee shall have the recommendation of the Planning Board.

(1) Compensation

The Planner shall receive salary and benefits as set by Town Council ordinance.

(2) Duties

- Coordinates the activities of Town Boards and Commissions regarding the town's planning and development functions.

- Acts as a support person for the Planning and Zoning Boards, Zoning Board of Appeals, Inland Wetlands and all town agencies and departments. The responsibilities shall include but not be limited to application reviews, updating of the Comprehensive Community Plan, zoning map and land use regulations.

- Advises the Town Council and other municipal departments and acts as the professional liaison with federal, state and regional organizations.

- Aggressively pursues grant opportunities coinciding with land and economic issues and advises the appropriate commission of their existence and how to utilize them.

- Attends meetings and hearings pertinent to land use issues to promote a direct chain of information between boards & commissions. This prevents duplication of efforts and helps give accurate feedback to each board.

- Assists in all review processes for significant applications before Commissions and Boards and provides guidance regarding town and state regulations and ordinances.

- Promotes economic growth. Works with the Economic Development Commission to research ways of attracting new business in concert and offsetting the burden of residential taxpayers.

- Works in conjunction with departments to ensure compliance with town regulations.

- Facilitates the education of new and current commission members on their responsibilities and current issues before them.

- Provides input and expertise to the town and private land trust organizations to insure cooperation and a free flow of information as to the acquisition and protection of available areas in North Smithfield.

- Prepares or assists in other special projects as requested by the Town Council and Town Administrator.

Additional Powers: The Town Planner shall work with the building/zoning official and shall have, under the authority of the building/zoning official, the authority to cite violations of the North Smithfield Zoning Ordinance, over the signature of the building/zoning official. The town planner shall work as the assistant zoning enforcement official and shall help coordinate said efforts as needed, and/or directed, by the building/zoning official.

Explanation: If Ballot Question #12 is approved by a majority of the eligible voters, then the position of "Town Planner" will be codified in the Charter.

- ☐ Approve
☐ Reject

Local Questions

13. Editing and Terminology Changes

Shall the Home Rule Charter of the Town of North Smithfield be amended: (a) to correct spelling, grammar and punctuation as needed; to provide for appropriate technical changes; to render language gender-neutral; (b) to incorporate editing and terminology changes that would bring continuity and clarity to the Town Charter; (c) to adopt the language modernization changes, format changes and section numbering changes as necessary to clarify the Town Charter as approved by the Town Council; and (d) to update text changes to be consistent with existing Rhode Island law and statutes?

- ☐ Approve
☐ Reject