

SUPPORTER ACTION TOOLKIT

BACKGROUND ON QUESTION 3

*The cost of housing is rising faster than incomes leaving workers, families, seniors, and veterans struggling to find a home or apartment they can afford, while also making ends meet. Now, with so many Rhode Islanders struggling with the health and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, finding safe, affordable housing is more important than ever. By investing in housing opportunities for all Rhode Islanders we can address a housing shortage that is holding our economy back. Vote YES on Question 3 in Rhode Island's March 2, 2021 special election to approve the **\$65 million Housing and Community Opportunity bond** for the construction and rehabilitation of affordable homes and apartments across Rhode Island, and to help communities revitalize neighborhoods through redevelopment, new construction, and property acquisition. This smart investment will leverage millions in additional resources while creating much needed housing, construction jobs, and stronger communities.*

**It will take powerful supporters, like you, to help us win Question 3 this election!
Here are 3 steps you can take to help.**

STEP #1: HELP YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE.

Rhode Islanders have 3 options for voting in the March 2 election – by mail, early in-person, or in-person on Election Day. Important dates to know are below. Make a plan to vote, and encourage your friends and family to make a plan!

- **Jan. 31:** Deadline to register to vote or update your voter information at vote.ri.gov.
- **Feb. 9:** Deadline to apply for a mail ballot. Applications were mailed to voters and can also be found at vote.ri.gov.
- **Feb. 10 – Mar. 1:** Vote early in-person at your local city or town hall during normal business hours.
- **March 2:** Special Election day – vote at your designated polling location!

STEP #2: SUPPORT YES ON 3 ON SOCIAL MEDIA (#VOTEYESON3)

Show your support for Yes on 3 by sharing content from the campaign pages (**Facebook:** [@voteyeson3ri](https://www.facebook.com/voteyeson3ri) and **Twitter:** [@voteyeson3ri](https://twitter.com/voteyeson3ri)) and post your own content about why voting Yes on 3 is important. Messages to consider:

FOR HOMES:

- *Question 3 supports the construction & rehab of homes & apts. that RI workers, families, seniors & vets can afford.*
- *Funding from past housing bonds has created 3,200+ affordable homes & apartments for families, seniors & veterans in 34 communities across RI.*
- *In 2019, households earning \$34,000 or less (just under the median renter income) could not affordably rent an average-priced 2-bedroom apartment in any RI city or town.*
- *Based on 2019 median single family home prices, a household earning the state's median household income of \$63,000 would be able to affordably to buy a home in just one of RI's cities and towns.*

FOR JOBS:

- *Voting Yes On 3 will create good paying jobs for Rhode Island's building and construction workers.*
- *The \$65 million housing bond will leverage millions in additional investments in our communities. Past housing bonds have generated a total of \$780 million in public and private investment in RI.*
- *The availability of affordable homes is essential for RI employers to attract and grow our RI workforce.*

FOR RHODE ISLAND:

- *Safe, stable, affordable housing is critical to the health of residents & communities, especially during this pandemic.*
- *Redevelopment, new construction, and property acquisitions will improve public safety, increase property values & spark revitalization in neighborhoods & communities across RI.*

STEP #3: SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR SUPPORTING YES ON 3.

The Yes on 3 campaign is seeking supporters from all backgrounds throughout Rhode Island who are willing to voice their support through short letters to the editor. If you are interested in supporting this effort, we can help make this process quick and simple for you! Please email yeson3ri@gmail.com.