

TOWN OF WESTERLY

Information For Voters

Special Referendum

THURSDAY

October 10, 2019



Ballot Questions

WESTERLY BOARD OF CANVASSERS NOTICE TO REGISTERED VOTERS
SPECIAL REFERENDUM
THURSDAY, October 10, 2019
7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Westerly Residents

This informational pamphlet is being mailed to every residence to assist voters in making informed decisions on local ballot questions concerning the Town of Westerly at the October 10, 2019 Special Referendum.

Included in this pamphlet are explanations for the School Bond question, Town Charter Revision questions, voting locations, options for voting, and a mail ballot application.

Please take the time to read through each of the proposed ballot questions to have a better understanding of the School Bond question and how your vote will affect changes to the Town's Charter.

Thank you for your attention to this important responsibility.

Choose 1 of 3 easy and convenient ways to vote!

EASIEST

Vote by Mail Ballot

Any time before September 19, 2019 - see mail ballot application on last page
Complete and mail or deliver the attached application to Board of Canvassers, 45 Broad St., Westerly RI 02891 or drop it in the Utility Mailbox in the driveway between Christ Church and Town Hall by 4:00 p.m. on September 19, 2019. If reasons #1, #2, or #3 in Box C on the application do not apply, check off #4. Your ballot will be mailed to your home.

EASIER

Vote in person at Town Hall

Monday – Friday September 20, 2019 through October 9, 2019 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and
Thursday, October 10, 2019 from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

EASY

Vote at your polling location – Thursday, October 10, 2019 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

See polling locations on next page

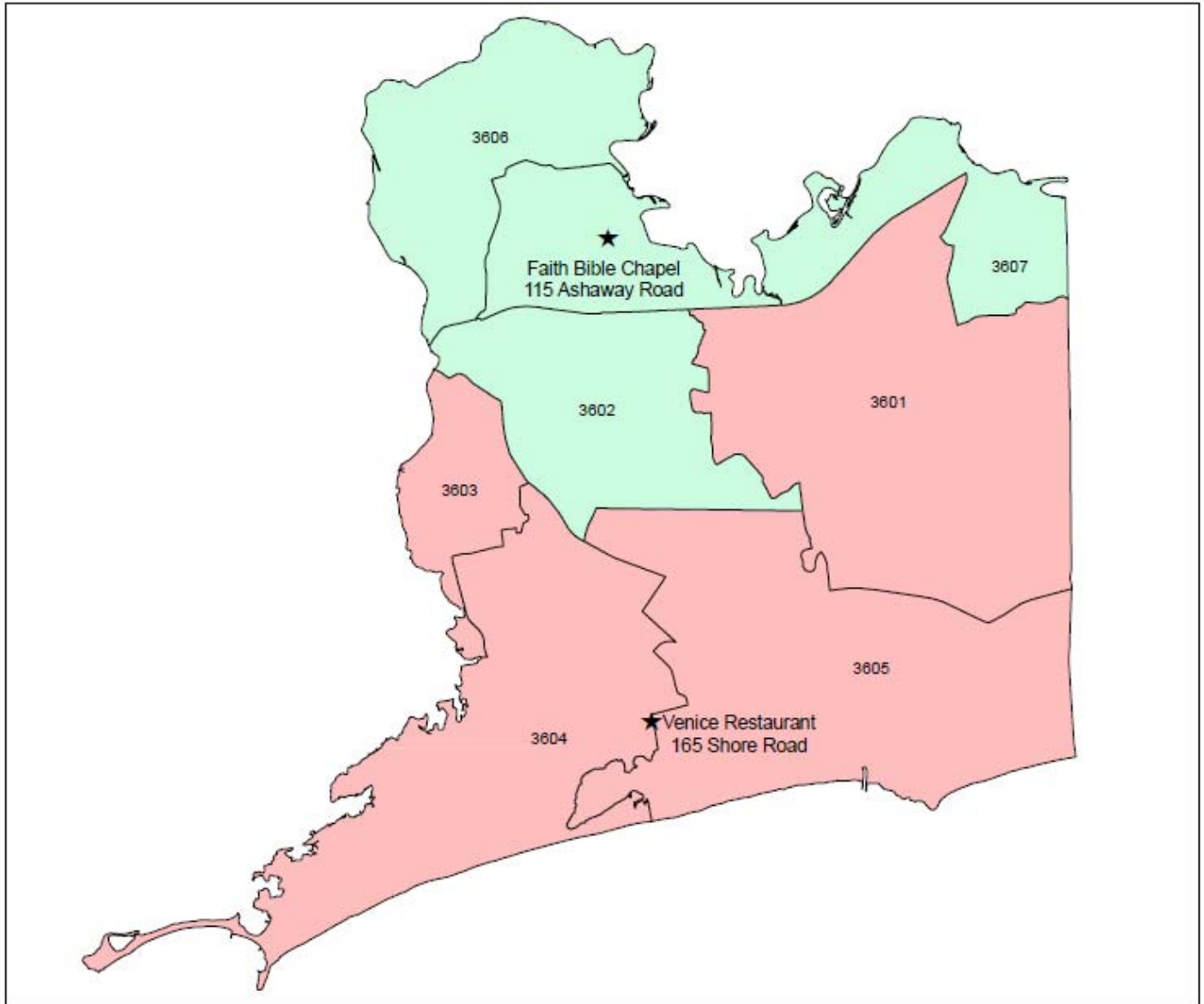
All forms and information can be obtained at <https://sos.ri.gov/vic/>, or call 348-2503 or email ktracy@westerlyri.gov

Skip the lines on Election Day . . .



Two Polling Locations – Photo ID required – Visit <https://sos.ri.gov/vic/> to confirm location

- **Venice Restaurant, 165 Shore Road**
 - Includes Precincts – 3601 (Bradford Citizens Club), 3603 (State Street School), 3604 (Venice Restaurant), 3605 (Westerly Middle School Cafeteria)
- **Faith Bible Chapel, 115 Ashaway Road**
 - Includes Precincts – 3602 (Westerly High School), 3606 (Springbrook School Gym), 3607 (Faith Bible Chapel)



**TOWN OF WESTERLY
SCHOOL BOND
INFORMATIONAL PAMPHLET**

QUESTION #1

AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$71,410,000, Local Act 117 (S0944) and Local Act 126 (H6185) of 2019

“Shall an Act, passed at the 2019 General Assembly, entitled, ‘AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF WESTERLY TO ISSUE NOT TO EXCEED \$71,410,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, NOTES AND OTHER EVIDENCES OF INDEBTEDNESS TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, IMPROVEMENT, ALTERATION, REPAIR, FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPPING OF SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE TOWN, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF STATE HOUSING AID AT A REIMBURSEMENT RATE OR STATE SHARE RATIO OF NOT LESS THAN 35% FOR EXPENDITURES ELIGIBLE FOR STATE AID AND PROVIDED THAT THE AUTHORIZATION SHALL BE REDUCED BY ANY GRANT RECEIVED FROM THE SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY CAPITAL FUND’ be approved?”

| | |
|--|---------|
| | APPROVE |
| | REJECT |

If you vote “Approve,” you are voting to:

- Issue debt in the amount of \$71,410,000 to finance the construction, renovation, improvement, alternation, repair, furnishings and equipping of schools and school facilities.

If you vote “Reject,” you are voting to:

- Not allow the Town to issue debt to finance the construction, renovation, improvement, alternation, repair, furnishings and equipping of schools and school facilities.

PROJECT INFORMATION, STATE AID AND BOND DEBT SERVICE

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Total Project approved by RIDE | \$74,284,759 |
| Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment ⁽¹⁾ | 927,693 |
| Total Project Costs | \$75,212,452 |
| Portion allocated to five-year capital plan ⁽²⁾ | (3,802,505) |
| Total project costs before PayGo money | \$71,409,947 |
| PayGo Money ⁽³⁾ | (5,454,081) |
| Net to be funded through bond proceeds | \$65,955,866 |
| Interest at 4% | 42,423,607 |
| Total Debt Service before aid | \$108,379,473 |
| State aid at 35% | (29,574,843) |
| Earnings on bond proceeds applied to debt service | (1,952,171) |
| Net Debt Service to taxpayers over 25 years | \$76,852,459 |

⁽¹⁾Items included in bond not eligible for state aid

⁽²⁾To be included in school annual capital budget

⁽³⁾State aid issued during construction to debt

FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated tax rate increase does not include the annual tax increases to support the operating budget for the Town and the School. For 2020-2021, it is estimated that the debt and operating tax increase for the General Fund could total 7.40%. Other taxes, such as Water and Sewer taxes, would be separately determined to support those operations and potential increases, and are not included in the analysis.

If approved, **this** School bond alone will have the following fiscal impact:

| Annual Tax Increase per \$1,000 of Property Value⁽⁴⁾ | |
|--|----------------|
| 2020-2021 | \$ 0.39 |
| 2021-2022 | \$ 0.03 |
| 2022-2023 | \$ 0.07 |
| 2023-2024 | \$ 0.04 |
| 2024-2025 | \$ 0.11 |
| 2025-2026 | \$ 0.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 0.64 |

⁽⁴⁾Based on Current Grand List of \$6,499,753,939 as of December 31, 2018

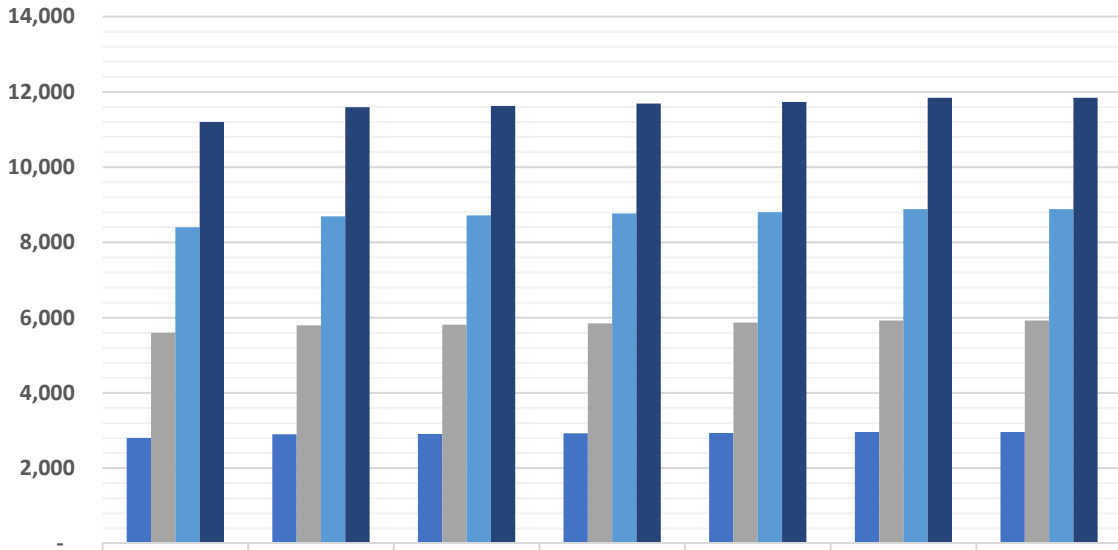
SCHOOL BOND IMPACT BY HOME VALUE SCENARIO

| HOUSE VALUE | \$250,000 | | \$500,000 | | \$750,000 | | \$1,000,000 | | Mill Rate ⁽⁶⁾ |
|---|------------|---------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Annual Tax | Inc. ⁽⁵⁾ | Annual Tax | Inc. ⁽⁵⁾ | Annual Tax | Inc. ⁽⁵⁾ | Annual Tax | Inc. ⁽⁵⁾ | |
| 2019-2020 | \$2,800 | | \$5,600 | | \$8,400 | | \$11,200 | | 11.20 |
| 2020-2021 | 2,897 | 97 | 5,794 | 194 | 8,691 | 291 | 11,588 | 388 | 11.59 |
| 2021-2022 | 2,906 | 106 | 5,811 | 211 | 8,717 | 317 | 11,622 | 422 | 11.62 |
| 2022-2023 | 2,922 | 122 | 5,844 | 244 | 8,766 | 366 | 11,688 | 488 | 11.69 |
| 2023-2024 | 2,933 | 133 | 5,866 | 266 | 8,799 | 399 | 11,732 | 532 | 11.73 |
| 2024-2025 | 2,960 | 160 | 5,920 | 320 | 8,880 | 480 | 11,841 | 641 | 11.84 |
| 2025-2026 | 2,960 | 160 | 5,920 | 320 | 8,880 | 480 | 11,841 | 641 | 11.84 |
| 2026-2045 | | \$160 x 19 years= \$3,040 | | \$320 x 19 years = \$6,080 | | \$480 x 19 years = \$9,120 | | \$641 x 19 years = \$12,179 | |
| Total tax over life of debt of School Bond (25 years) | | \$3,818 | | \$7,635 | | \$11,453 | | \$15,291 | |

⁽⁵⁾These projected increases are in addition to any budgetary tax increases.

⁽⁶⁾Mill Rate adjusted for school bond impact only.

SCHOOL BOND IMPACT BY HOME VALUE SCENARIO



| | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 | 2024-2025 | 2025-2026 |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| ■ 250,000 | 2,800 | 2,897 | 2,906 | 2,922 | 2,933 | 2,960 | 2,960 |
| ■ 500,000 | 5,600 | 5,794 | 5,811 | 5,844 | 5,866 | 5,920 | 5,920 |
| ■ 750,000 | 8,400 | 8,691 | 8,717 | 8,766 | 8,799 | 8,880 | 8,880 |
| ■ 1,000,000 | 11,200 | 11,588 | 11,622 | 11,688 | 11,732 | 11,841 | 11,841 |

ANNUAL TAX PER HOME VALUE

PROJECT INFORMATION

The State of Rhode Island has a school construction program that provides aid to cities and towns for the support of replacing or improving school buildings; the Westerly School Committee has received approval for a total project cost of \$74.3 million with a base state aid rate of 35%. Once the project is completed, there is potential additional aid of 17.5% if all criteria are met. The fiscal information presented here does not include the 17.5% additional aid. Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) will issue a portion of the aid, known as PayGo money, on a reimbursement basis until exhausted, to cover 35% of the early construction costs thereby reducing the total amount of the bond.

**TOWN OF WESTERLY
CHARTER REVISION REFERENDUM
INFORMATIONAL PAMPHLET**

QUESTION #2

CHARTER AMENDMENT RE: COUNCIL TERM LIMITS

(Article II, Town Council, Chapter I, §2-1-1 “Number, Selection, Term”)

“Shall the Westerly Town Charter be updated to remove term limits for the Town Council?”

| | |
|--|---------|
| | APPROVE |
| | REJECT |

If you vote “Approve,” you are voting to:

- Remove the restriction to allow elected councilors to serve more than two consecutive terms.
- Allow councilors to serve as many terms as they are elected.

If you vote “Reject,” you are voting to:

- Retain current language in the Charter.
- Restrict elected councilors from serving more than two consecutive terms.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

If the question is approved,

- No financial impact.

**TOWN OF WESTERLY
CHARTER REVISION REFERENDUM
INFORMATIONAL PAMPHLET**

QUESTION #3

CHARTER AMENDMENT RE: PROPOSED BUDGET

(Article III, Financial Provisions, Chapter I, §3-1-3 "Proposed Budget")

"Shall the Westerly Town Charter be amended to permit submission of a proposed budget on the third Monday in March?"

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | APPROVE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | REJECT |

If you vote "Approve," you are voting to:

- Change the timeline for submittal of the General Government budget from the third Monday in February to the third Monday in March. The additional time would allow departments to provide more accurate numbers in preparing their budgets.

If you vote "Reject," you are voting to:

- Retain the current language in the Charter.
- Maintain the timeline for budget submittal at the third Monday in February.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

If the question is approved,

- No financial impact.

**TOWN OF WESTERLY
CHARTER REVISION REFERENDUM
INFORMATIONAL PAMPHLET**

QUESTION #4

CHARTER AMENDMENT RE: PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET
(Article XI, School Department, Chapter I, §11-1-7 “Budget”)

“Shall the Westerly Town Charter be amended to permit submission of a proposed School Committee budget on the first Monday in March?”

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | APPROVE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | REJECT |

If you vote “Approve,” you are voting to:

- Change the timeline for submittal of the School Committee budget from the first Monday in February to the first Monday in March. The additional time would allow the School Department more time to receive numbers from the state for the preparation of its budget.

If you vote “Reject,” you are voting to:

- Retain the current language in the Charter.
- Maintain the timeline for submittal of the School Committee budget at the first Monday in February.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

If the question is approved,

- No financial impact.

Mail Ballot Application Instructions

Esta solicitud también está disponible en español.

1. Box A - Voter information

All information **must** be provided in this section. Be sure to clearly print or type.

2. Box B - Address where ballot is to be sent

If receiving your ballot at an address other than the one listed in Box A, this section must be completed.

3. Box C - Mail ballot reasons

There are 4 categories to choose from in this section. Check the category that applies to you. If the address you are having your ballot mailed to is different than the address in Box A, you must provide that address in Box B.

4. Box D - Oath of voter and signature

You must read the oath of voter in this section. You must then sign your name in full attesting to the oath. Your signature does not need to be witnessed or notarized.

5. Return your completed application

Return your completed application to "Board of Canvassers" in your city/town. Addresses listed below.

NOTICE TO APPLICANT

If anyone attempts to intimidate or unduly influence you, or interfere with your right to vote, contact your Local Board of Canvassers. Any person knowingly and willfully making a false application or certification or knowingly and willfully aiding and abetting in the making of a false application or certification shall be guilty of a felony and shall be subject to the penalties provided for in section 17-26-1, [RIGL, 17-20-8(D)].

Your application is a matter of public record, but your vote is confidential.

Local Boards of Canvassers Contact Information

Barrington Town Hall
283 County Rd. 02806
247-1900 x4

Bristol Town Hall
10 Court St. 02809
253-7000

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

Central Falls City Hall
580 Broad St. 02863
727-7400

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
780-3126

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
392-9201

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
423-9804

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 Drive 02852
294-3331 x128

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

**North Smithfield
Municipal Annex**
575 Smithfield Rd. 02896
767-2200

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
421-0495

Richmond Town Hall
5 Richmond Townhouse Rd.
Wyoming 02898
539-9000 x9

Scituate Town Hall
195 Danielson Pike
P.O. Box 328,
North 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

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

**Department of State,
Elections Division**
148 W. River St., Providence 02904
711 (TDD) 222-2340

State Board of Elections
50 Branch Ave., Providence 02904
711 (TDD) 222-2345

Mail Ballot Application

Westerly Special Referendum on October 10, 2019



State of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations

→ Must be received by your local board of canvassers
not later than 4 p.m. on September 19, 2019

For Official Use Only

Precinct: _____

Date: _____

Accepted by: _____

Box A Voter information

Name of Voter

Home Address (where you are registered to vote)

RI

City/Town State Zip Code

Date of Birth Phone Number

Box B Address where ballot is to be sent

Name of Institution (if applicable)

Address

Address

City/Town State Zip Code

Fax Number (if applicable for Box C, category 3)

Box C Mail ballot reasons

I certify that I am eligible for a mail ballot on the following basis:

- () 1. I am incapacitated to such an extent that it would be an undue hardship to vote at the polls because of illness, mental or physical disability, blindness or a serious impairment of mobility.
If the ballot is not being mailed to your voter registration address (BOX A) please provide the **Rhode Island address** where you are temporarily residing in BOX B above.
- () 2. I am confined in a hospital, convalescent home, nursing home, rest home, or similar institution **within the State of Rhode Island**. Provide the name and address of the facility where you are residing in BOX B above.
- () 3. I am employed or in service intimately connected with military operations or because I am a spouse or dependent of such person, or I am a United States citizen who will be outside the United States.
Complete BOX B above or the ballot will be mailed to the local board of canvassers. Optional: Please clearly print an email address where you can be contacted regarding your ballot status:

- () 4. I may not be able to vote at my polling place in my city or town on the day of the election.
If the ballot is not being mailed to your voter registration address (BOX A) please provide the **address within the United States** where you are temporarily residing in BOX B above.
If you request that your ballot be sent to your local board of canvassers, please indicate so in BOX B above.

Box D Oath of voter and signature

I declare that all of the information I have provided on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I further state that I am not a qualified voter of any other city or town or state and have not claimed and do not intend to claim the right to vote in any other city or town or state.

If unable to sign name because of physical incapacity or otherwise, applicant shall make his or her mark "X".

Signature in Full



Power of Attorney signature:

A Power of Attorney signature is not valid in Rhode Island.



View your voter information at **vote.ri.gov**