

STATE QUESTIONS

1. STATE CONSTITUTIONAL APPROVAL
(APPROVAL OF AN ACT AUTHORIZING STATE-OPERATED CASINO GAMING AT TWIN RIVER IN THE TOWN OF LINCOLN)
 (Section 22 of Article VI of the Constitution)

Shall an act be approved which would authorize the facility known as "Twin River" in the town of Lincoln to add state-operated casino gaming, such as table games, to the types of gambling it offers?

Question 1 **APPROVE** ←

Question 1 **REJECT** ←

2. STATE CONSTITUTIONAL APPROVAL
(APPROVAL OF AN ACT AUTHORIZING STATE-OPERATED CASINO GAMING AT NEWPORT GRAND IN THE CITY OF NEWPORT)
 (Section 22 of Article VI of the Constitution)

Shall an act be approved which would authorize the facility known as "Newport Grand" in the city of Newport to add state-operated casino gaming, such as table games, to the types of gambling it offers?

Question 2 **APPROVE** ←

Question 2 **REJECT** ←

3. HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES BONDS
\$50,000,000
 (Chapter 241 - Public Laws 2012)

Approval of this question will allow the State of Rhode Island to issue general obligation bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) for renovations and modernization of academic buildings at Rhode Island College including renovation, upgrade and expansion of health and nursing facilities on the campus of Rhode Island College.

Question 3 **APPROVE** ←

Question 3 **REJECT** ←

4. VETERANS' HOME BONDS
\$94,000,000
 (Chapter 241 - Public Laws 2012)

Approval of this question will allow the State of Rhode Island to issue general obligation bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed ninety-four million dollars (\$94,000,000) for the construction of a new Veterans' Home and renovations to existing facilities. Any funding amount from federal sources received for these purposes will be used to reduce the amount of borrowed funds.

Question 4 **APPROVE** ←

Question 4 **REJECT** ←

STATE QUESTIONS

5. CLEAN WATER FINANCE AGENCY BONDS
\$20,000,000
 (Chapter 241 - Public Laws 2012)

Approval of this question will authorize the State of Rhode Island to issue general obligation bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000) to be leveraged with federal and state capitalization grants to finance wastewater infrastructure projects and eight million dollars (\$8,000,000) to be leveraged with federal and state capitalization grants to finance drinking water infrastructure projects.

Question 5 **APPROVE** ←

Question 5 **REJECT** ←

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BONDS
\$20,000,000
 (Chapter 241 - Public Laws 2012)

Approval of this question will allow the State of Rhode Island to issue general obligation bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes for environmental and recreational purposes to be allotted as follows:

(a) **Narragansett Bay and Watershed Restoration**
 ..\$4,000,000
 Provides funds for activities to restore and protect the water quality and enhance the economic viability and environmental sustainability of Narragansett Bay and the State's watersheds. Eligible activities include: nonpoint source pollution abatement, including stormwater management; nutrient loading abatement; commercial, industrial and agricultural pollution abatement; and riparian buffer and watershed ecosystem restoration.

(b) **State Land Acquisition - Open Space**..\$2,500,000
 Provides funds for the purchase of land, development rights and conservation easements in Rhode Island. This program acquires recreational and open space lands for the State of Rhode Island in accordance with the Rhode Island Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Land Protection Plan, and the Rhode Island Greenspace 2000 plan.

(c) **Farmland Development Rights**..\$4,500,000
 Provides funds for the purchase of agricultural development rights to active farms in Rhode Island. The State purchases the development rights to farms to eliminate the economic pressure on farmers to sell properties for residential and commercial development. The Agricultural Land Preservation Commission accepts and evaluates farmland applications for these funds.

(d) **Local Land Acquisition Grants**..\$2,500,000
 Provides funds for grants to municipalities, local land trusts and non-profit organizations to acquire fee-simple title, development rights, or conservation easements to open space in Rhode Island. The grants provide funding up to fifty percent (50%) of the purchase price for land, surveys, appraisals and title costs. The grant applications are reviewed and evaluated by the Governor's Natural Heritage Preservation Commission according to the program guidelines.

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STATE QUESTIONS

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(e) **Local Recreation Grants**
 ..\$5,500,000
 Provides grants to municipalities for acquisition, development, or rehabilitation of local recreational facilities. These grants provide funding assistance up to fifty percent (50%) of the project costs. All grant applications are evaluated and ranked by the State Recreation Resources Review Committee.

(f) **Historic/Passive Parks**
 ..\$1,000,000
 Provides grants to municipalities for the renovation and development of historic and passive recreation areas. The grants provide funding assistance up to ninety percent (90%) of the project costs. All grant applications are evaluated and ranked by the State Recreation Resources Review Committee.

Question 6 **APPROVE** ←

Question 6 **REJECT** ←

7. AFFORDABLE HOUSING BONDS
\$25,000,000
 (Chapter 241 - Public Laws 2012)

Approval of this question will allow the State of Rhode Island to issue general obligation bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) for affordable housing.

Question 7 **APPROVE** ←

Question 7 **REJECT** ←

LOCAL QUESTIONS ON SEPARATE BALLOT

VOTE BOTH FRONT AND BACK OF BALLOT

**OFFICIAL ELECTION BALLOT
 STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
 CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE
 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2012**



To Vote: Complete the arrow(s) ← pointing to your choice(s) with a single bold line, like this ←

LOCAL QUESTIONS

8. Shall the Charter for the City of East Providence be amended as follows to allow the fiscal year to be changed by ordinance?

Sec. 5-1. Fiscal year; "budget year" defined.

The fiscal year of the city government shall begin on the first day of November and shall end on the last day of October of each calendar year unless a uniform fiscal year for all cities and towns shall be established by state law. Such fiscal year may be changed by ordinance so long as any such change remains in compliance with state law. Such fiscal year shall also constitute the budget and accounting year. As used in this Charter, the term "budget year" shall mean the fiscal year for which any particular budget is adopted and in which it is administered.

This amendment becomes effective upon passage without further action.

Question 8 **APPROVE** ←

Question 8 **REJECT** ←

LOCAL QUESTIONS

9. Shall the Charter for the City of East Providence be amended as follows to create a budget reserve fund?

Sec. 5-15

(a) No budget act shall cause the aggregate expenditures enacted in any given fiscal year to exceed ninety nine percent (99%) of the anticipated revenues for such fiscal year as defined in Article V, Sec. 5-5 of this Charter.

(b) There is hereby established a budget reserve fund. Revenues in this budget reserve fund may be included in the budget, whenever:

(1) The city forecasts or experiences a loss in total non-property tax revenues and the loss is certified by the director of finance;

(2) The city experiences or anticipates an emergency situation, which shall be deemed to exist when the city experiences or anticipates health insurance costs, retirement contributions or utility expenditures which exceed the prior fiscal year's health insurance costs, retirement contributions or utility expenditures by a percentage greater than ten and one-half percent (10.5%);

(3) The city forecasts or experiences debt services expenditures net of any state aid reimbursement which exceed the prior year's debt service expenditures by an amount greater than three and one-half percent (3.5%) and which are the result of bonded debt issued in a manner consistent with general law or a special act.

(4) The city experiences substantial growth in its tax base as the result of major new construction which necessitates either significant infrastructure or school housing expenditures by the city or a significant increase in the need for essential municipal services and such increase in expenditures or demand for services is certified by the director of finance.

Whenever funds are used, they must be replenished in equal parts over the three (3) succeeding fiscal years to the amount that would have been in the fund had the expenditures not been made from the fund.

(c) The amount between the applicable percentage in (a) and one hundred percent (100%) of the anticipated revenue for any fiscal year defined in Article V, Sec. 5-5 of this Charter shall be transferred in any given fiscal year into the budget reserve fund; provided, however, that no such payment will be made which would increase the total of the budget reserve fund to more than ten percent (10%) of only the anticipated revenues as set by subsection (a) of this section.

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(d) In the event that the payment to be made into the budget reserve fund would increase the total of the budget reserve fund to more than ten percent (10%) of the anticipated revenues as defined in Article V, Sec. 5-5 of this Charter. In the event that the payment to be made into the budget reserve fund would increase the amount in said account to more than ten percent (10%) of estimated state general revenues that said amount shall be transferred to a capital fund to be used solely for funding capital projects.

(e) Capital projects shall not include debt reduction, principal or interest payments on debt, or for any other type of financing arrangement, but shall only be used for payment of direct actual expenses incurred for capital projects.

This amendment becomes effective upon passage without further action.

Question 9 **APPROVE** ←

Question 9 **REJECT** ←

**LOCAL QUESTIONS
 CONTINUED ON
 BACK**

LOCAL QUESTIONS

10. Shall the Charter for the City of East Providence be amended as follows to allow the flexibility in further department consolidation and reorganization as well as access to more qualified candidates for city positions?

Section 4-1. Finance department created; head of department designated; organization.

(1) There shall be a department of finance, the duties of which shall include the supervision and direction of all matters pertaining to financial operations, and the head of which shall be the director of finance, who shall be, or be appointed by, the City Manager. The further organization of the department into divisions or offices shall be made by the council, on recommendation of the city manager.

(2) The department shall be organized into the following divisions or offices: Control and accounts; treasury, assessment; purchasing. The heads of these divisions shall be respectively designated controller, treasurer, assessor and purchasing agent. They shall be appointed by the director of the department, with the approval of the city manager; Those powers, duties and responsibilities of any division enumerated in this Article IV, shall be assigned to the director of finance to be delegated in accordance with Sec. 3-5 of this Charter; and

Sec. 13-18. Office to be vacant if officer ceases to be city resident. shall be removed from the charter.

Sec. 2-14. Probate court.

(1) The powers and duties of a probate court for the city shall be exercised and performed by a judge of probate.

(2) The judge of probate shall be an attorney-at-law in good standing who has been admitted to the practice of law in this state. He shall be a qualified elector of the city. A preference in hiring shall be given to those residents of the city who apply for this position.

(3) The council by resolution shall appoint a judge of probate to serve for a term of office concurrent with that of the council and until his successor is appointed and qualified.

(4) In the absence, disability or disqualification of the judge of probate so that he is unable to perform his duties, the city solicitor shall serve as acting judge of probate and when so serving shall have and exercise all the powers and duties of the judge of probate.

Sec. 2-16. City clerk.

(1) The council shall elect an officer ~~who shall be an elector of the city~~ and shall have the title of city clerk, and who shall give notice of its meetings, shall keep the journal of its proceedings, shall authenticate by his signature and record in full in a book kept for that purpose all ordinances and resolutions. A preference in hiring shall be given to those residents of the city who apply for this position.

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(2) He shall be responsible for the keeping and maintaining, for public inspection, all records of the city including, but not limited to:
(A) All land evidence records of every kind whatsoever;
(B) All records of personal property mortgages, attachments, assignments, lis pendens notices, conditional sales, and liens of every kind whatsoever that are now or shall hereafter be required or permitted to be recorded in a public place in charge of or under the control, custody, or supervision of any officer of the city;
(C) All records of the probate court;
(D) All records of licenses issued by the city or by any officer or employee thereof;
(E) All records of births, marriages and deaths;
(F) All records of removals;
(G) All records of trade names;
(H) Such other records as shall by ordinance or laws of the state be required to be kept by the city clerk.

(3) He shall issue all marriage licenses, burial permits, and such other licenses or permits as by ordinance or laws of the state shall be required to be issued by the city clerk, and shall perform such other duties as may be required by ordinance or laws of the state.

Sec. 2-17. City solicitor.

The council shall elect an officer of the city who shall have the title of city solicitor. The solicitor shall be an attorney-at-law in good standing who has been admitted to practice in the state. ~~He shall be a qualified elector of the city.~~ The city solicitor shall be attorney for the city and legal advisor of the council and of all officers, departments, and agencies and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the council. A preference in hiring shall be given to those residents of the city who apply for this position.

Sec. 3-1. Qualifications.

The city manager shall be chosen by the council solely on the basis of executive and administrative qualifications, with special reference to prior experience in, or knowledge of, accepted practice with respect to duties of the office as hereinafter set forth. In addition, the city manager shall be a graduate of an accredited four-year college or university, with a master's degree in public administration, business administration, or a related field. The city manager shall have at least three (3) years of actual experience in a management level position in either the public or private sector. Such experience must include positions with responsibility in any of the following areas: Finance, planning, personnel, public works, public safety, economic development of their equivalent. At the time of appointment, the city manager need not be a resident of the city or state, but during the tenure of office, the city manager shall reside in the city within a fifteen (15) mile radius of the city.

This amendment becomes effective upon passage without further action.

Question 10 **APPROVE** ←

Question 10 **REJECT** ←

LOCAL QUESTIONS

11. Shall the Charter for the City of East Providence be amended to establish four (4) year terms for members of the council and members of the school committee?

Sec. 2-1. Number, selection and term.

The council shall have five [5] members, one to be elected from any by the electors of each of the four [4] wards of the city, and one to be elected at large, for a term of ~~two [2]~~ four (4) years or until a majority of the newly elected council have qualified and have taken office.

Sec. 10-1. School committee.

(1) There shall be a school committee consisting of five (5) members. One (1) member shall be elected from the city at large, and one (1) member shall be elected from each of the four (4) wards of the city at the regular city elections to serve for terms of ~~two (2)~~ four (4) years.

(2) Any vacancy in the membership of the school committee shall be filled by the city council until the next regular city election.

This amendment becomes effective upon passage without further action.

Question 11 **APPROVE** ←

Question 11 **REJECT** ←