

TOWN OF WEST WARWICK
BOARD OF CANVASSERS

Notice is hereby given that the following four local questions will appear on the ballot for the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024

STATE QUESTIONS 1-5: Please refer to the State Guide mailed to your home or <https://vote.sos.ri.gov/Forms/Elections/Guides/24RefGuideEng.pdf>

LOCAL QUESTIONS 6-9: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE WEST WARWICK TOWN CHARTER.
Below each amendment is a brief explanation of the reason for the recommended change.

**QUESTION 6 -
BUDGET PROCESS – ARTICLE 5**

Shall Article 5 be amended to provide that after two public hearings, 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.

Currently the annual budget is adopted after the Town Council holds two public hearings, presents the budget at the town financial meeting, and then sends it to be voted on in an all-day referendum. This amendment would allow the Town Council to pass the annual budget with a super-majority vote, saving the expense of the all-day referendum. If the Council was not able to approve a budget with super majority, the Town Manager shall propose an amended budget. If the Town Council fails to adopt the second proposed budget by super-majority, they shall hold an all-day referendum.

**QUESTION 7 –
TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS – ARTICLE 5 – SECTION 505**

Shall Section 505 be amended to authorize the Finance Director to transfer appropriations from one department to another at any time during the fiscal year?

Currently, the Finance Director can only transfer appropriations during the last three months of the fiscal year. This would allow the Finance Director to transfer funds throughout the fiscal year by resolution, leading to improved financial reporting and transparency.

**QUESTION 8
ARTICLE 7 – SECTION 706 – COMPETITIVE BIDDING**

Shall Section 706 be amended to align with the changes to Rhode Island General Law § 37-2 – *State Purchases*?

This would change the Home Rule Charter to reflect the updated bidding and purchasing process to align with State law. It would also allow the purchasing policy to be updated by resolution.

**QUESTION 9
ARTICLE 20 – SECTION 2004 – PENSION BOARD**

Shall Section 2004 be omitted in its entirety pursuant to the fact that the West Warwick Pension System is now under the administration of the Employee Retirement System of Rhode Island?

The West Warwick Pension System is now administered by the Employee Retirement System of Rhode Island. Therefore, the Pension Board no longer has any business to conduct.

VOTER FRAUD IS A FELONY PUNISHABLE BY A PRISON TERM OF UP TO 10 YEARS AND A FINE OF UP TO \$5,000 FOR EACH OFFENSE. YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO VOTE FROM YOUR ACTUAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE.