

CHARLESTOWN

October 2026

THE PIPELINE



2026 GENERAL ELECTION

Tuesday, November 3 • Charlestown, Rhode Island

1



VOTE BY MAIL

Request a mail ballot
vote.ri.gov

2



VOTE EARLY IN PERSON

Charlestown Town Hall
Mon-Fri • 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

3



VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

At your polling location
7:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.

KEY DATES

- OCT 4** Voter registration deadline
- OCT 13** Mail ballot application deadline
- OCT 14** Early voting begins
- NOV 2** Early voting ends at 4:00 p.m.
- NOV 3** General Election Day

WHERE TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

- 0501** **Charlestown Elementary School, Gymnasium**
363 Carolina Back Rd
- 0502** **Charlestown Town Hall, Council Chambers**
4540 South County Trl
- 0503** **Quonochontaug Grange Hall**
5662 Post Rd
- 0504** **St. James Parish Center**
2079 Matunuck Schoolhouse Rd

Questions? Charlestown Town Clerk • (401) 364-1200 • Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

This issue of **The Pipeline** is dedicated to helping Charlestown voters prepare for the upcoming General Election.

The General Election will be held on **Tuesday, November 3, 2026**, with polling locations open from **7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.** If you are unsure where you vote, visit **vote.sos.ri.gov** or contact the Town Clerk's Office at **(401) 364-1200**.

What You'll Find in This Issue

A full sample ballot is included on the following pages so you can become familiar with your ballot before Election Day.

The sample ballot begins with the **Federal, State, and Local races**. The pages that follow include **5 State questions, 1 Chariho Bond question, and 4 Local Charter Amendment questions**.

Following the sample ballot, you'll find an explanation of the Chariho Bond question and each proposed Charter amendment, along with the actual Charter language showing the proposed changes. When reviewing that language:

- Words shown in **strike-through** are proposed to be **deleted** from the Charter.
- Words shown as **underlined** are proposed to be **added** to the Charter.

About the Charter Questions

The **Home Rule Charter** is Charlestown's governing document and establishes the framework for how our Town government operates. Changes to the Charter may be proposed, but they cannot take effect without the approval of Charlestown voters.

In January 2025, the Town Council appointed seven residents to serve on the **Charter Revision Advisory Committee**. The Committee conducted a comprehensive review of the Charter, consulted with Town department heads, considered community feedback, and developed proposed revisions.

After completing its review, the Committee held a public hearing on the proposed changes before forwarding its recommendations to the Town Council. The Town Council then held its own public hearing before finalizing the **four Charter questions** that will appear on the ballot.

Now it is up to Charlestown's voters to decide whether to approve or reject each proposed Charter amendment.

If you have questions about voting, the sample ballot, or the proposed Charter amendments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Amy Rose Weinreich, CMC

Town Clerk

(401) 364-1200

arweinreich@charlestownri.gov



State of Rhode Island Official Ballot
General Election
November 3, 2026
Charlestown

 TO MARK YOUR CHOICE Fill in the oval to the left of your choice. Do not make any marks outside of the oval.	 TO VOTE FOR A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE To vote for a candidate whose name is not on the ballot, fill in the oval to the left of "Write-in" and print the name clearly in the box.
---	---

Senator in Congress Six Year Term Vote for 1 ☐ Raymond T. McKay REPUBLICAN ☐ John F. Reed DEMOCRAT ☐ Michael Bahry Independent ☐ Write-in	General Treasurer Four Year Term Vote for 1 ☐ Nicholas A. Credle REPUBLICAN ☐ James A. Diosa DEMOCRAT ☐ Write-in	Town Council Two Year Term Vote for up to 5 ☐ Stephen J. Stokes REPUBLICAN ☐ Deborah A. Carney DEMOCRAT ☐ Matthew Westover REPUBLICAN ☐ Jill Marie Fonnemann DEMOCRAT ☐ Craig T. Marr REPUBLICAN ☐ Cynthia M. Drummond DEMOCRAT ☐ Sasha Puchalski Independent ☐ Bonnita B. Van Slyke Independent ☐ Write-in ☐ Write-in ☐ Write-in ☐ Write-in ☐ Write-in
Representative in Congress District 2 Two Year Term Vote for 1 ☐ Victor Mellor REPUBLICAN ☐ Seth Magaziner DEMOCRAT ☐ Write-in	Senator in General Assembly District 34 Two Year Term Vote for 1 ☐ Elaine J. Morgan REPUBLICAN ☐ Samantha R. Wilcox DEMOCRAT ☐ Write-in	Non-Partisan Planning Commission Top two (2) vote getters serve for a six (6) year term. Next two (2) top vote getters serve for a two (2) year term as alternates. Vote for up to 4 ☐ Coleen M. Galvin Yaroshenko ☐ Katherine Gingras ☐ Cheryl A. Lill ☐ Ruth L. Platner ☐ Laura Anne Rom ☐ Frances M. Topping ☐ Gordon S. Wilcox ☐ Write-in ☐ Write-in ☐ Write-in ☐ Write-in
Governor Four Year Term Vote for 1 ☐ Aaron C. Guckian REPUBLICAN ☐ Helena Buonanno Foulkes DEMOCRAT ☐ Kenneth Block Independent ☐ Jasjit S. Gotra Independent ☐ C. D. Reynolds Independent ☐ Write-in	OR Senator in General Assembly District 38 Two Year Term Vote for 1 ☐ Westin J. Place REPUBLICAN ☐ Victoria Gu DEMOCRAT ☐ Write-in	
Lieutenant Governor Four Year Term Vote for 1 ☐ John J. Loughlin, II REPUBLICAN ☐ Sabina Matos DEMOCRAT ☐ Write-in	Representative in General Assembly District 36 Two Year Term Vote for 1 ☐ Tina L. Spears DEMOCRAT ☐ Write-in	
Secretary of State Four Year Term Vote for 1 ☐ Gregg M. Amore DEMOCRAT ☐ Write-in	Town Moderator Two Year Term Vote for 1 ☐ Tony Jones REPUBLICAN ☐ David M. Wilkinson Independent ☐ Write-in	
Attorney General Four Year Term Vote for 1 ☐ Alan Leonard Gordon REPUBLICAN ☐ Kimberly Ahern DEMOCRAT ☐ Write-in	Chariho School Committee Four Year Term Vote for up to 3 ☐ Kim M. Coulter REPUBLICAN ☐ Linda D. Lyall DEMOCRAT ☐ Craig F. Louzon DEMOCRAT ☐ Holly Eaves DEMOCRAT ☐ Nicholas Testa Independent ☐ Write-in ☐ Write-in ☐ Write-in	

State Questions
QUESTIONS 1 - 5 (Chapter 084 Public Laws 2026) Shall the act passed by the General Assembly at the January 2026 session, allowing the State of Rhode Island to issue bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes to pay for the projects listed below, be approved, and the State be allowed to issue these bonds, refunding bonds, and temporary notes as outlined in the law? 1. HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES - \$275,000,000 For capital improvements to higher education facilities, to be allocated as follows: a. University of Rhode Island Integrated Health Building - \$165,000,000 b. Rhode Island College Adams Library Renovations - \$50,000,000 c. Community College of Rhode Island Workforce Innovation Center - \$60,000,000 ☐ Approve ☐ Reject
2. HOUSING AND HOMEOWNERSHIP - \$120,000,000 To increase and preserve the availability of affordable and accessible housing to meet the needs of all Rhode Islanders and support community revitalization through the redevelopment of existing structures, new construction, property acquisition, and infrastructure improvements. Of this amount, at least twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) shall be allocated towards increasing production of housing intended for homeownership and up to ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) may be used to support a program for public housing development. ☐ Approve ☐ Reject
3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - \$100,000,000 To fund site development and growth industry infrastructure for economic development purposes, to be allocated as follows: a. Site Development - \$55,000,000 b. Growth Industry Infrastructure - \$45,000,000 ☐ Approve ☐ Reject
4. CULTURAL ECONOMY - \$50,000,000 To provide funding for cultural economy efforts, to be allocated as follows: a. State History Center - \$45,000,000 b. State Preservation Grants Program - \$5,000,000 ☐ Approve ☐ Reject

State Questions
5. GREEN ECONOMY BONDS - \$55,000,000 For environmental and recreational purposes, to be allocated as follows: a. Brownfields Remediation and Economic Development - \$3,000,000 b. Facility Improvements - \$12,000,000 c. Local Recreation Projects - \$1,000,000 d. Marine Infrastructure Development - \$1,000,000 e. Resilient Rhody Infrastructure Fund - \$25,000,000 f. Narragansett Bay Watershed Restoration - \$7,000,000 g. Agricultural Land Preservation Commission - \$3,000,000 h. Open Space Program - \$3,000,000 ☐ Approve ☐ Reject

Local Questions
6. CONSTRUCTION, FURNISHING, AND EQUIPPING OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON SINGLE CAMPUS \$116,000,000 (Local Acts 031/032 – Acts and Resolves of 2026) Shall an act passed at the 2026 session of the General Assembly entitled "An Act authorizing the Charlestown Regional School District to finance the construction, furnishing, and equipping of an elementary school serving the towns of Charlestown, Richmond, and Hopkinton, consisting of one or more buildings on a single campus, and improvements at the Switch Road Campus, including but not limited to costs of land acquisition, demolition, design, health and safety projects, playgrounds, landscaping, paving, and all expenses incidental thereto, by the issuance of not more than \$116,000,000 bonds and/or notes therefor, subject to approval of state housing aid at a reimbursement rate or state share ratio of not less than 61% at the time of issuance, which rate or ratio may increase to 65% at project completion" be approved? Explanation: The school facilities shall be constructed so as to provide safe, energy efficient, and cost-effective schools in accordance with Northeast Collaborative for High Performance Schools standards to reduce long-term operating costs and support healthy learning environments for students and staff. ☐ Approve ☐ Reject
Questions 7-10 Amendments to the Charlestown Home Rule Charter (Resolution of the Town Council, adopted July 13, 2026) 7. PLANNING COMMISSION Shall the Town Charter be amended at Part 14, Commissions and Boards, Article LIII, Planning Commission, § C-172 Establishment and organization; compensation, to provide for a Planning Commission composed of five (5) members elected at large on a non-partisan basis for terms of four (4) years with staggered terms, plus two (2) alternate members elected on a non-partisan basis for terms of two (2) years, subject to ratification of these amendments by special act of the RI General Assembly? ☐ Approve ☐ Reject
8. ORDINANCES Shall the Town Charter be amended at Part 2, Town Council, Article IX, Ordinances, § C-33, Introduction, to provide, when allowable by law, a summary of the proposed ordinance, including a description of the matter under consideration and the intent and effect of the proposed ordinance be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the Town, with the full text of the proposed ordinance made available on the Town's official website? The summary shall include directions on where to locate the proposed ordinance. ☐ Approve ☐ Reject

See Pipeline pages 8-9 for full explanation

See Pipeline pages 9-11 for full explanation

Voting continues on the next page



State of Rhode Island Official Ballot
General Election
November 3, 2026
Charlestown

**TO MARK YOUR CHOICE**

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

See Pipeline pages 11-13
for full explanation

Local Questions**9. PURCHASING**

Shall the Town Charter be amended at Part 6 Finance, Article XXVII Purchasing, § C-103, Policy, Paragraph C, For construction purchases and Paragraph D, For all other purchases, to be increased or decreased annually hereafter at the same rate as the Boston Regional Consumer Price Index, as per R.I. Gen. Law § 45-55-9, as amended?

- ☐ Approve
☐ Reject

Local Questions**10. CHARTER REVISIONS**

Shall the Town Charter be revised in the following Sections to remove and/or insert words, terms, and/or phrases to remove scrivener's errors and/or clarify, correct word usage, terms, and phrases:

- a. Preamble, be amended to remove the words "and Providence Plantations" from the name of the State of Rhode Island, to conform to the amendment of the Rhode Island Constitution in November 2020?
- b. Part 1, Establishment of Town; Effect of Charter, Article V, Real and Personal Property Held by Town, § C-16 Granting Use of Property; regulation for clarity to who is authorized?
- c. Part 3, Administrator, Article X, Appointment and Qualifications, § C-41 Appointment; term, Paragraph C., to insert the word "of" to resolve a scrivener's drafting error?
- d. Part 3, Administrator, Article XIV, Acting Administrator, § C-46 Appointment for temporary absences, to insert the word "to" to resolve a scrivener's drafting error?
- e. Part 5, (Reserved), Article XVIII, Clerk and Deputy Clerk § C-51, Paragraph A, to insert a comma "," after the word 'interviews' to resolve a scrivener's drafting error?
- f. Part 5, (Reserved), Article XIX, Duties of Clerk, § C-53 Enumeration, Paragraph I, to insert the word "of" to resolve a scrivener's drafting error?
- g. Part 6 Finance, Article XXIII Tax Assessment, § C-65, Duties of Tax Assessor, to insert the word "in" to resolve a scrivener's drafting error?
- h. Part 8, Inspectors, Article XXXII Function of Building Inspector/Zoning Official, § C-115, Powers and Duties, Sub-Paragraph F to delete a comma "," between the words 'Housing' and 'Maintenance' to resolve a scrivener's drafting error?
- i. Part 6 Finance, Article XXVII Purchasing, § C-103, Policy, Paragraph C, For construction purchases, Sub-Paragraph (ii) to clarify purchasing thresholds?
- j. Part 6 Finance, Article XXVII Purchasing, § C-103, Policy, Paragraph D, For all other purchases, Sub-Paragraph (ii) to clarify purchasing thresholds?
- k. Shall the Town Charter be amended at Part 14, Commissions and Boards, Article LIII, Planning Commission, § C-174, Powers and duties, at E. to remove the requirement to provide a report with the Rhode Island Development Council as that entity is no longer in existence?

- ☐ Approve
☐ Reject

See Pipeline pages 13-15
for full explanation

About Ballot Question 6:

On November 3, 2026, electors in Charlestown, Hopkinton, and Richmond will be asked to decide a bond question, specifically related to the financing of the construction, furnishing and equipping of an elementary school serving the towns of Charlestown, Richmond and Hopkinton, consisting of one or more buildings on a single campus, and improvements at the Switch Road Campus. Rhode Island General Laws Section 17-8-10 requires that local Boards of Canvassers publicly post and publish certain information relative to any local questions that will appear on the ballot.

What it will look like on the ballot:

6. CONSTRUCTION, FURNISHING, AND EQUIPPING OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON SINGLE CAMPUS

\$116,000,000 BONDS AND NOTES (Local Acts 031/032 – Acts and Resolves of 2026)

Shall an act passed at the 2026 session of the General Assembly entitled “An Act Authorizing the Chariho Regional School District to finance the construction, furnishing and equipping of an elementary school serving the towns of Charlestown, Richmond and Hopkinton, consisting of one or more buildings on a single campus, and improvements at the Switch Road Campus, including but not limited to costs of land acquisition, demolition, design, health and safety projects, playgrounds, landscaping, paving, and all expenses incidental thereto, by the issuance of not more than \$116,000,000 bonds and/or notes therefor, subject to approval of state housing aid at a reimbursement rate or state share ratio of not less than 61% at the time of issuance, which rate or ratio may increase to 65% at project completion” be approved?

Explanation:

The school facilities shall be constructed so as to provide safe, energy efficient and cost-effective schools in accordance with Northeast Collaborative for High Performance Schools standards to reduce long-term operating costs and support healthy learning environments for students and staff.

☐ Approve

☐ Reject

INFORMATION ABOUT BALLOT QUESTION 6

Approve

Your vote to “Approve” means that you support the Chariho Regional School District issuing \$116,000,000 in general obligation bonds to finance the construction, furnishing and equipping of an elementary school serving the towns of Charlestown, Richmond and Hopkinton, consisting of one or more buildings on a single campus.

Reject

Your vote to “Reject” means that you are against the Chariho Regional School District issuing \$116,000,000 in general obligation bonds to finance the construction, furnishing and equipping of an elementary school serving the towns of Charlestown, Richmond and Hopkinton, consisting of one or more buildings on a single campus, and improvements at the Switch Road Campus.

Explanation and purpose of Question 6:[GK1.1]

These bonds will be used to finance the construction, furnishing and equipping of an elemen-

tary school serving the towns of Charlestown, Richmond and Hopkinton, consisting of one or more buildings on a single campus, and improvements at the Switch Road Campus.

These bonds will not be issued unless the District is awarded State housing aid at a reimbursement rate of at least 61% of debt service for those expenditures that are eligible for reimbursement. That 61% reimbursement rate must be in effect when the bonds are issued. The actual reimbursement rate is expected to be at least 65% of debt service.
How much money will be borrowed?

\$116,000,000 subject to approval of a State aid reimbursement rate of at least 61% of debt service. It is estimated that the project will receive \$0 in pay-as-you go grants from the State, leaving \$116,000,000 to be borrowed by the Chariho Regional School District. The "Project Cost" estimates below assume that the District will also receive State housing aid to reimburse

Project timetable:

The Chariho Regional School District estimates that construction and renovations of the schools and school facilities will begin in 2027 and will be completed in approximately 2032.
Useful life:

Although each asset has a different useful life, the Chariho Regional School District estimates that the average useful life of the schools and school facilities to be financed will be 50 years. The useful life of information systems is approximately 7 years. The useful life of land improvements is approximately 10 or more years.

Total Project Cost:

The following table shows that after the District receives a \$0 pay-as-you go grant from the State, the net debt issued by the Chariho Regional School District for the projects would be \$116,000,000. Assuming the District receives debt service reimbursement at a 61% ratio, this would leave the Chariho Regional School District responsible for a total of \$45,240,000 of principal payments plus a total of \$44,600,638 of interest payments. The District projects that the bonds would be structured with level debt service payments. Therefore, annual debt service payable over 30 years including interest payments would be \$89,840,638, after receipt of minimum State housing aid reimbursement. With a maximum state aid reimbursement of 65% the debt service payments decrease to \$80,626,214.

State reimbursement is anticipated to be 65% per housing aid regulations. The lowest reimbursement rate is 61% (base), and bonuses up to 4% are available assuming the District meets the regulatory requirements, with a total maximum reimbursement rate of 65% being potentially available.

EXAMPLE

Project	Project In Millions \$	Principal In Millions \$	Interest @4.65% In Millions \$	Total Cost In Millions \$
Total Project Costs:				
Project Costs:	\$116,000,000	\$116,000,000	\$114,360,611	\$230,360,611
Costs of Borrowing (in above)				
Pay-as-you Go Grant from State:	\$0			
Project Cost:	\$116,000,000	\$116,000,000	\$114,360,611	\$230,360,611
State Reimbursement @ 65%:	-	(\$75,400,000)	(\$74,334,397)	(\$149,734,397)
Net Cost after Reimbursement:	-	\$ 40,600,000	\$ 40,026,214	\$ 80,626,214

*Annual Debt Service Cost - 30 Years:				
Level Payments	-	\$ 4,258,400	\$ 3,663,330	\$ 7,921,730
State Reimbursement	-	(\$ 2,767,960)	(\$2,381,165)	(\$ 5,149,125)
Annual Debt Service (*average)		\$ 1,490,440	\$ 1,282,166	\$ 2,772,606

Property Tax Levy (town share \$):				
Charlestown (23.26%)			\$346,676	\$298,232
Richmond (37.57% = \$Town)			\$559,958	\$481,710
Hopkinton (39.17% = \$Town)			\$583,805	\$502,224

Mill Rate Increase:				
Charlestown (23.26% = \$Town)	FY27	add 0.13 to	\$5.05/1,000	2.56%
Richmond (37.57% = \$Town)	FY27	add 0.63 to	\$12.42/1,000	5.03%
Hopkinton (39.17% = \$Town)	FY27	add 0.65 to	\$12.44/1,000	5.23%

VOTER FRAUD IS A FELONY with penalties enumerated in R.I. Gen. Laws Section 17-23-4 and 17-26-1

7. Shall the Town Charter be amended at Part 14, Commissions and Boards, Article LIII, Planning Commission, § C-172 Establishment and organization; compensation, to provide for a Planning Commission composed of five (5) members elected at large on a nonpartisan basis for terms of four (4) years with staggered terms, plus two (2) alternate members elected on a nonpartisan basis for terms of two (2) years, subject to ratification of these amendments by special act of the RI General Assembly.

- ☐ APPROVE
- ☐ REJECT



Article LIII Planning Commission

§ C-172 Establishment and organization; ~~compensation composition~~.

A. There shall be a Planning Commission composed of five (5) members. They shall be elected at large on a non-partisan basis for terms of ~~six (6) years~~ four (4) years, except that the initial elections after the effective date of this provision shall be for a terms of two (2) members the (1) candidate with the second highest number of votes for two (2) years, ~~two (2) members~~ and the (1) candidate with the highest number of votes for four (4) years. Thereafter, the terms of candidates shall be for four (4) years, with staggered terms of three (3) members in one election cycle and two (2) members in the subsequent election cycle and one (1) member for six (6) years, respectively. In addition, there shall be two (2) alternate members elected for terms of two (2) years; and any vacancy on the Commission shall be filled by one (1) of the alternates until the next general election. When an alternate resigns or is appointed to fill a vacancy on the Commission, the Council may appoint a replacement alternate to serve until the next general election. All members shall serve until their respective successors have been elected. The Town Administrator and the Director of Public Works shall serve as ex officio members, and a member of the Council may also serve as an ex officio member of this Commission.

What are voters being asked to decide?

Whether to change the **length and structure of terms** for members of the Planning Commission.



Current Charter Structure

- Planning Commission has **5 elected full members who serve for 6-year terms**
- Terms are staggered
- **Two (2) alternate members who serve 2-year terms**
- Vacancies are filled by alternates until the next election



Proposed Change

The amendment would:

- Maintain **5 elected full members and 2 alternates (2-year terms)**
- Change full member terms from **6 years to 4 years**
- Establish a new staggered system:
 - **3 full members elected in one cycle**
 - **2 full members elected in the next cycle**
- Provide a transition plan after adoption:
 - One full member initially serves a **2-year term**
 - One full member serves a **4-year term**
 - All future full terms are **4 years**



What Stays the Same

- Commission structure (5 members + 2 alternates)
- At-large, nonpartisan elections
- Alternates fill vacancies until the next election
- Ex officio members (Town Administrator, Director of Public Works, and optional Council member)

Prior Vote

This proposal was considered by Charlestown voters in 2024 and was not approved:

REJECT: 2,396 (50.2%)

APPROVE: 2,378 (49.8%)

The 2024 vote was decided by 18 votes.

8. Shall the Town Charter be amended at Part 2, Town Council, Article IX, Ordinances, § C-33, Introduction, to provide, when allowable by law, a summary of the proposed ordinance, including a description of the matter under consideration and the intent and effect of the proposed ordinance be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the Town, with the full text of the proposed ordinance made available on the Town's official website. The summary shall include directions on where to locate the proposed ordinance.

☐ APPROVE

☐ REJECT



Charlestown Town Charter Amendment - Advertising of Proposed Ordinances

Article IX Ordinances

§C-33. Introduction.

Every proposed ordinance, other than an emergency ordinance, shall be read a first time by title and explained by its sponsor at the meeting at which it is to be introduced. An affirmative vote of three (3) of the members of the Council shall be necessary for its introduction. A date shall be set for a hearing on the proposed ordinance. At least seven (7) calendar days prior to the hearing, ~~the proposed ordinance shall be published in a newspaper having distribution within the town~~ a summary of the proposed ordinance, including a description of the matter under consideration and the intent and effect of the proposed ordinance, shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the Town, with the full text of the proposed ordinance made available on the Town's official website. The summary shall include directions on where to locate the proposed ordinance. With respect to zoning ordinances or amendments thereto, all notice and hearing requirements shall be conducted in strict compliance with Rhode Island General Laws § 45-24-53, as amended. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit or supersede any applicable requirement of state law.

What are voters being asked to decide?

Whether to change how the Town publishes proposed ordinance amendments, while maintaining public notice, hearings, and compliance with state law.

Background

- **Newspaper publication of full ordinances can cost \$175 to over \$1,300 each**
- **The Town's advertising costs have increased by over \$90,000 in the past five years**
- Our local newspaper is reducing its circulation, no longer publishing a Sunday and Monday paper.
- The Town already provides full ordinance text online.
- This approach maintains transparency while updating how information is shared.



Current Requirement

Before a public hearing, the Town must:

- Publish the full text of the proposed ordinance in a newspaper
- Provide at least 7 days' notice



Proposed Change

The amendment would:

- Continue requiring newspaper notice
 - Allow publication of a summary instead of the full ordinance
 - Require the full text to be posted on the Town's website
 - Require the notice to include instructions for accessing the full ordinance
-



What Stays the Same

- Public hearings are still required
- At least 7 days' notice is still required
- Ordinances must still be introduced at a public meeting
- The public still has access to the full ordinance

State Law Compliance

- Zoning ordinances must continue to follow Rhode Island General Laws § 45-24-53
- The amendment does not override or reduce any state law requirements



How Would You Access the Full Ordinance?

- Visit the Town's official website at charlestownri.gov.
- Follow the directions included in the newspaper notice.



Prior Vote

A similar proposal was considered in 2024 and was not approved:

- 57% Reject | 43% Approve

This version clarifies compliance with state law and access to full ordinance text.



Bottom Line

This amendment would:

- **Keep public notice and hearings**
- **Maintain legal compliance**
- **Provide full access to ordinances online**
- **Allow more flexible and cost-efficient publication methods**

9. Shall the Town Charter be amended at Part 6 Finance, Article XXVII Purchasing, § C-103, Policy, Paragraph C, For construction purchases and Paragraph D, For all other purchases, to be increased or decreased annually hereafter at the same rate as the Boston Regional Consumer Price Index, as per R.I. Gen. Law §45-55-9, as amended.



APPROVE



REJECT

Charlestown Town Charter Amendment – Annual Adjustment of Purchasing Limits

Article XXVII Purchasing

§ C-103 – Policy

- A. Any purchase of standard supplies, materials, equipment or services for the routine operation of any department or other town agencies shall be made centrally by the Administrator and will comply with the following provisions.
- B. All other purchases unique to any department or other town agency shall be made in compliance with the following provisions, upon written request to the Administrator by the head of the department or other town agency.
- C. For construction purchases:
 - i. For amounts which do not exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000), the purchase shall be considered a small purchase and approved by the purchasing agent without any quotes or bids required by the Town department and/or division seeking the purchase.

- ii. *For amounts which are greater than three thousand dollars (\$3,000) but less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), the purchase shall be considered a small purchase and approved by the purchasing agent only after three written quotes have been obtained by the Town department and/or division seeking the purchase.*
- iii. *For amounts which are greater than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), award shall only be made by competitive bidding in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 55 of Title 45 of the General Laws.*
- iv. *These stated purchase limits shall be increased or decreased annually hereafter at the same rate as the Boston Regional Consumer Price Index, as per RIGL §45-55-9, as amended.*

D. *For all other purchases:*

- i. *For amounts which do not exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000), the purchase shall be considered a small purchase and approved by the purchasing agent without any quotes or bids required by the Town department and/or division seeking the purchase.*
- ii. *For amounts which are greater than three thousand (\$3,000) but less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), the purchase shall be considered a small purchase and approved by the purchasing agent only after three written quotes have been obtained by the Town department and/or division seeking the purchase.*
- iii. *For amounts greater than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), award shall only be made by competitive bidding in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 55 of Title 45 of the General Laws*
- iv. *These stated purchase limits shall be increased or decreased annually hereafter at the same rate as the Boston Regional Consumer Price Index, as per RIGL §45-55-9, as amended.*

E. *Where items or services to be purchased, in any amount, through a vendor which has a current Master Price Agreement (MPA) with the State of Rhode Island that can be verified with MPA documentation and MPA number, then the aforementioned purchasing/quotation process is replaced with the requirement of a quote for items or services from the MPA vendor and approval from the department head, verification of funds from the treasurer and final approval by the Town Administrator. This does not preclude or prohibit competitive bidding.*

What are voters being asked to decide?

Whether to allow the Town's purchasing thresholds to be **automatically adjusted each year based on inflation**, as allowed in State Law, rather than remaining fixed in the Charter.

Background

- Current dollar thresholds are **fixed and do not account for inflation**
- Over time, inflation reduces the value of these limits
- Adjusting thresholds annually may help maintain **consistency with market costs**
- Rhode Island law (§ 45-55-9) allows for adjustments tied to the **Boston Regional Consumer Price Index** (This index is set by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics by collecting price data from thousands of businesses to track how prices change over time.)
- Other municipalities have adopted similar provisions



Current Requirement

The Charter sets fixed dollar thresholds for purchasing procedures, including:

- **Construction Purchases**
 - Up to \$3,000: No quotes required
 - \$3,000–\$10,000: Three written quotes required
 - Over \$10,000: Competitive bidding required
- **All Other Purchases**
 - Up to \$3,000: No quotes required
 - \$3,000–\$5,000: Three written quotes required
 - Over \$5,000: Competitive bidding required

These dollar amounts are **fixed in the Charter** and do not change over time.

Proposed Change

The amendment would add language stating that:

These purchasing thresholds shall be **increased or decreased annually** based on the **Boston Regional Consumer Price Index**, in accordance with Rhode Island General Laws § 45-55-9.

R.I. Gen Law

§ 45-55-9. Small purchases.

*Procurements, not to exceed an aggregate amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for construction and five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for all other purchases may be made in accordance with small purchase regulations promulgated by the municipality. **These amounts shall be increased or decreased annually hereafter at the same rate as the Boston Regional Consumer Price Index.** Procurement requirements shall not be artificially divided so as to constitute a small purchase under this section. A municipality may further reduce the aggregate purchase amount, as provided for in this section by ordinance.*

What Stays the Same

- The purchasing process (quotes, approvals, bidding) remains unchanged
 - Competitive bidding requirements remain in place
 - Oversight by the Purchasing Agent and Town Administrator remains
 - State law requirements continue to apply
-

How Does State Law Apply?

Rhode Island General Laws § 45-55-9 allows municipalities to adjust certain purchasing thresholds based on the **Boston Regional Consumer Price Index (CPI)**. **The proposed amendment would incorporate the State Law allowance into the Town Charter.**

What is the Effect of this Amendment?

If approved, the Town's purchasing limits would:

- **Automatically adjust each year** based on inflation
 - Increase or decrease depending on changes in the CPI
 - No longer require a Charter amendment to update dollar thresholds
-

Bottom Line

This amendment would:

- Allow purchasing limits to **adjust over time**
 - Maintain existing purchasing procedures and oversight
 - Align the Charter with **state law provisions**
-

10. Shall the Town Charter be revised in the following Sections to remove and/or insert words, terms, and/or phrases to remove scrivener's errors and/or clarify, correct word usage, terms, and phrases:

- a. Preamble, be amended to remove the words "and Providence Plantations" from the name of the State of Rhode Island, to conform to the amendment of the Rhode Island Constitution in November 2020?
- b. Part 1, Establishment of Town; Effect of Charter, Article V, Real and Personal Property Held by Town, § C-16 Granting Use of Property; regulation for clarity to who is authorized?

- c. Part 3, Administrator, Article X, Appointment and Qualifications, § C-41 Appointment; term, Paragraph (c), to insert the word “of” to resolve a scrivener’s drafting error?
- d. Part 3, Administrator, Article XIV, Acting Administrator, § C-46 Appointment for temporary absences, to insert the word “to” to resolve a scrivener’s drafting error?
- e. Part 5, Article XVIII Clerk and Deputy Clerk § C-51, Paragraph A, to insert a comma “,” after the word interviews to resolve a scrivener’s drafting error?
- f. Part 5, Article XIX Duties of Clerk, § C-53 Enumeration, Paragraph I, to insert the word “of” to resolve a scrivener’s drafting error?
- g. Part 6 Finance, Article XXIII Tax Assessment, § C-65, Duties of Tax Assessor, to insert the word “in” to resolve a scrivener’s drafting error?
- h. Part 8, Inspectors, Article XXXII Function of Building Inspector/Zoning Official, § C-115, Powers and Duties, Sub-Paragraph F to delete a comma “,” between the words ‘Housing’ and ‘Maintenance’ resolve a scrivener’s drafting error?
- i. Part 6 Finance, Article XXVII Purchasing, § C-103, Policy, Paragraph C, For construction purchases, Sub-Paragraph (ii) to clarify to clarify purchasing thresholds?
- j. Part 6 Finance, Article XXVII Purchasing, § C-103, Policy, Paragraph D, For all other purchases, Sub-Paragraph (ii) to clarify to clarify purchasing thresholds?
- k. Shall the Town Charter be amended at Part 14, Commissions and Boards, Article LIII, Planning Commission, § C-174, Powers and duties, at E. to remove the requirement to provide a report with the Rhode Island Development Council as that entity is no longer in existence?

☐ APPROVE

☐ REJECT



Charlestown Town Charter Amendment – Technical Corrections & Clarifications

Multiple Charter Sections

What are voters being asked to decide?

Whether to approve a group of **technical corrections and clarifications** throughout the Town Charter. The proposed changes correct drafting errors, update outdated terminology, clarify who is authorized under certain provisions, and clarify two purchasing thresholds.



Proposed Corrections & Clarifications

- **Preamble:** Remove “and Providence Plantations” from the State’s name to conform to the Rhode Island Constitution following the November 2020 amendment.
- **§ C-16 – Use of Town Property:** Clarify who is authorized to approve or regulate use of Town property by inserting “or designated official” where appropriate.
- **§ C-41 – Town Administrator:** Insert the missing word “of” to correct a drafting error.
- **§ C-46 – Acting Administrator:** Insert the missing word “to” to correct a drafting error.
- **§ C-51 – Clerk and Deputy Clerk:** Insert a missing comma after “interviews” to correct punctuation.
- **§ C-53 – Duties of Clerk:** Insert the missing word “of” to correct a drafting error.
- **§ C-65 – Duties of Tax Assessor:** Insert the missing word “in” to correct a drafting error.
- **§ C-115 – Building Inspector/Zoning Official:** Delete the comma between “Housing” and “Maintenance” so the reference correctly reads “Rhode Island Housing Maintenance and Occupancy Code.”

- **§ C-103.C(ii) – Construction Purchases:** Clarify that a construction purchase of exactly \$10,000 falls within the small-purchase range requiring three written quotes.
- **§ C-103.D(ii) – All Other Purchases:** Clarify that a purchase of exactly \$5,000 falls within the small-purchase range requiring three written quotes.
- **§ C-174.E – Planning Commission:** Remove the requirement to file a report with the Rhode Island Development Council because that entity no longer exists.

What Stays the Same

- The basic structure, powers, and responsibilities established by the affected Charter provisions remain in place.
- The Town’s purchasing quote and competitive-bidding framework remains in place; the amendment clarifies the threshold endpoints.
- The Planning Commission’s substantive powers and duties remain unchanged except for removal of the obsolete reporting reference.

Bottom Line

This ballot question combines a series of **technical corrections and clarifications** intended to make the Charter more accurate, consistent, and easier to administer. A single APPROVE or REJECT vote applies to the group of changes listed in the ballot question.



**Visit the following links for the latest news
about what’s happening in the community.**

 facebook.com/CharlestownRITownHall

 Instagram.com/townofcharlestownri

 youtube.com/@TownofCharlestownRI

Website: charlestownri.gov

**THE TOWN HALL
PIPELINE**

Charlestown Town Hall
4540 South County Trail
Charlestown, RI 02813

**MUNICIPAL
INFORMATIONAL
NEWSLETTER**

Town Hall Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

CRCC Hours:

M, TH, F, SAT,
8am - 4 pm

Animal Shelter:

Call ahead, 364-1211

Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4pm
Saturday
8am to Noon

Town Hall Phone Numbers

Administrator	364-1210
Building/Zoning	364-1215
Information Technology	364-1231
Dept. of Public Works	364-1230
Parks & Recreation	364-1222
Planning	364-1225
Tax Assessor	364-1233
Tax Collector	364-1234
Town Clerk	364-1200
Treasurer	364-1235
Police (non-emergency)	364-1212
Wastewater Management	364-5030
Public Assistance	364-6998



Other Important Phone Numbers

Charlestown Ambulance Rescue (401-364-3742 for routine calls)	364-7744
Charlestown Animal Shelter	364-1211
Charlestown Building Inspector	364-1215
Charlestown DPW	364-1230
Charlestown Transfer Station	364-1220
Charlestown Town Hall	364-1200
Cox Cable Company	383-2000
Hospital—South County	782-8000
Hospital—Westerly	596-6000
RI Energy (electricity)	1-800-640-1595
Automated Information System	213-6960
Police—Charlestown	364-1212
Police—RI State	444-1068
Office of Drinking Water Quality	222-6867
RI American Red Cross	287-3327
Verizon Phone Co. Repair	1-800-837-4966

***All area codes are 401 unless otherwise noted**