

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

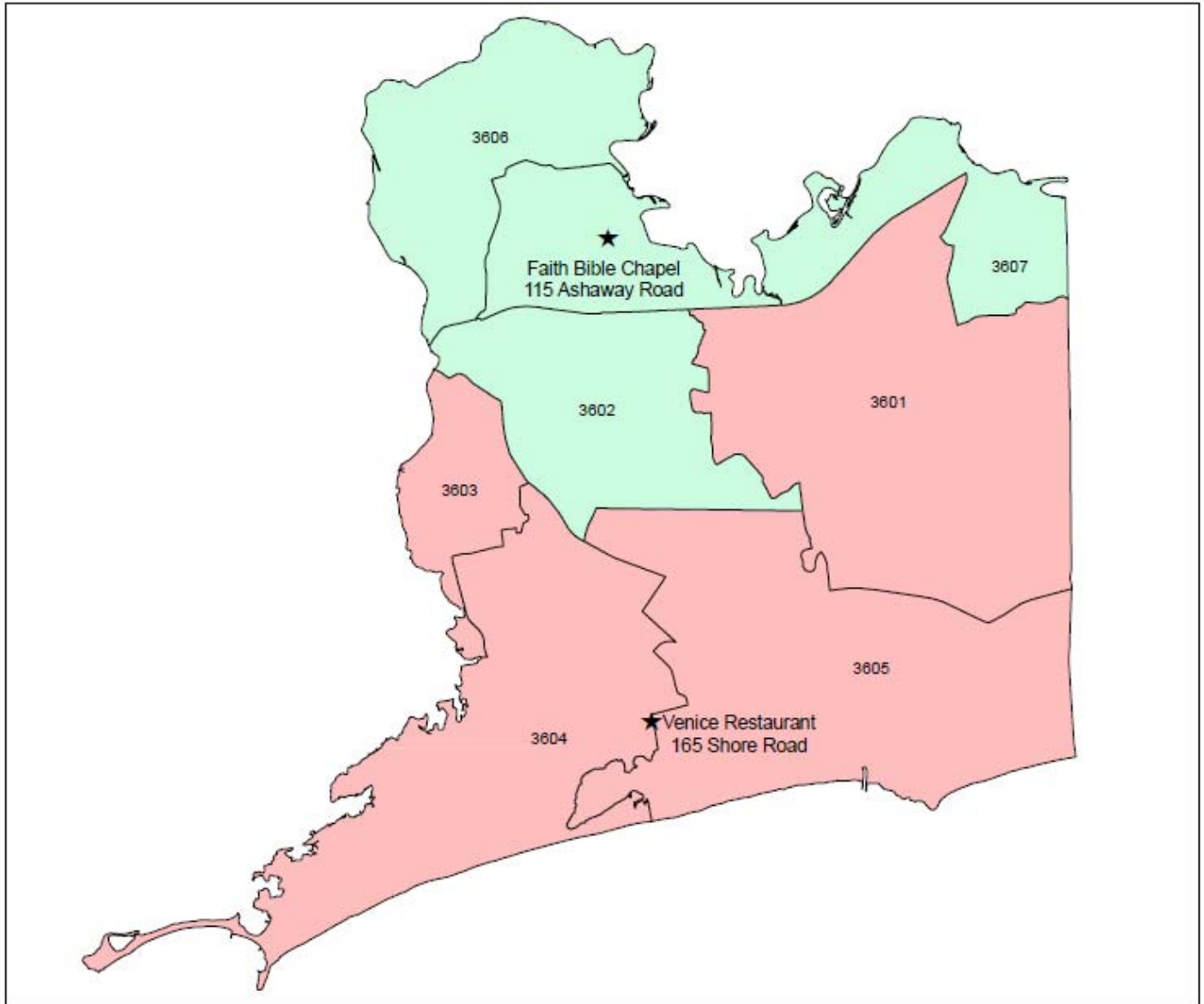
All forms and information can be obtained at <https://sos.ri.gov/vic/>, or call 348-2503 or email ktracy@westerlyri.gov

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

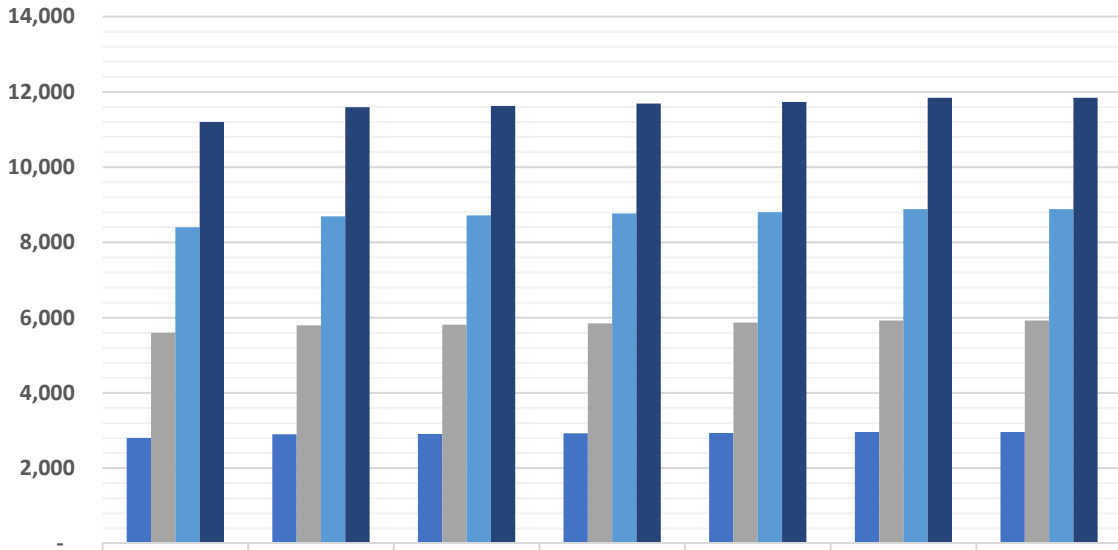
SCHOOL BOND IMPACT BY HOME VALUE SCENARIO

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.