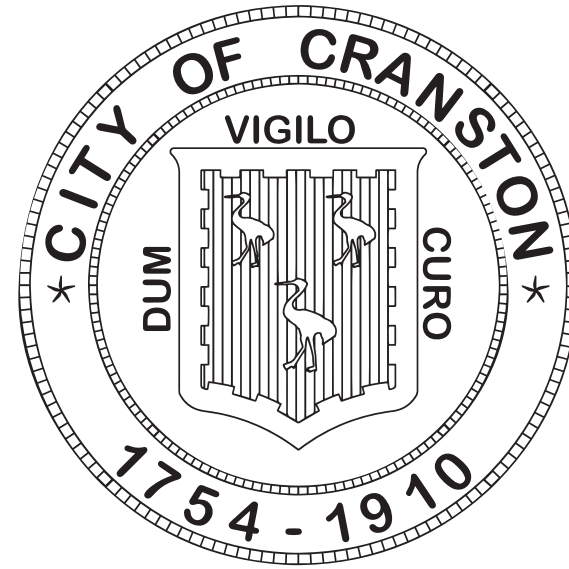


CRANSTON BOARD OF CANVASSERS
 CITY HALL
 869 PARK AVE
 CRANSTON, RI 02910-2786



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2022 Voter Information Handbook

CRANSTON BOARD OF CANVASSERS
 CITY OF CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND

Your Precinct is: _____
 Your Polling Location for Tuesday, November 8 is:

Important Local Referenda Question and Voter Information

A referendum is the way our legislative bodies (the General Assembly or City Council) ask voters to approve or reject proposals such as constitutional amendments, home rule charter amendments, long-term borrowings (bonds), and special laws affecting the City.

A referendum is always asked as a question to voters. There are three statewide questions, and six local Cranston questions, which will appear on the Cranston ballot for the Nov. 8, 2022 General Election. The questions will begin with the three state questions, followed by the six local questions, which will all appear on the backside of the ballot. Voter information regarding Cranston's local referenda is included in this pamphlet.

Approve: Your vote to "Approve" means that you support the City issuing General Obligation Bonds to finance the projects listed in a specified local bond question. For local charter questions, your vote to "Approve" means that you support changing the Home Rule Charter of the City of Cranston to add and/or delete the specific language listed in the referenced chapter. If a majority of Cranston voters voting in the election vote to approve a question, that question will be certified by the Cranston Board of Canvassers as having passed. Bonding authority related to that question will be granted, or, in the case of charter questions, the Home Rule Charter will be amended.

Reject: Your vote to "Reject" means that you are opposed to the City issuing General Obligation Bonds to finance the projects listed in a specified local bond question. For local charter questions, your vote to "Reject" means that you are opposed to changing the Home Rule Charter of the City of Cranston to add and/or delete the specific language listed in the referenced chapter. If a majority of Cranston voters voting in the election vote to reject a question, that question will be certified by the Cranston Board of Canvassers as having been rejected, and no bonding authority related to that question will be granted, or, in the case of charter questions, the Home Rule Charter of the City of Cranston will not be altered.

Questions 1, 2, and 3 are state bond questions, and will appear on the ballot first, ahead of six (6) local questions, which will appear on the ballot in the order listed in this document. The Secretary of State will mail information about state questions separately.

Polling locations and sample ballots can be found online at vote.ri.gov. Polling locations will be open on Tuesday, Nov. 8 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The assigned General Election polling location for the address this Voter Information Handbook was sent to is listed on the front of this pamphlet. Voters who wish to **vote early at the Peter T. Pastore, Jr. Youth Center, 155 Gansett Ave, may do so weekdays from Oct. 19 through Nov. 7, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.**, ending at 4 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 7.

You must be registered to vote from your actual place of residence. Voter fraud is a felony and the penalty for voter fraud is imprisonment for a term of not more than ten (10) years, or a fine of not less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), or both, for each offense (R.I. Gen. Laws §17-26-1). Canvassing Authority office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Room 100, Cranston City Hall, 869 Park Ave., Cranston, RI 02910-2786 – Phone: 401-780-3121 – Email: canvassing@cranstonri.gov – Website: www.cranstonri.gov – Check your voter registration and election information online at vote.ri.gov.

A Guide to Cranston Local Bond Referenda and Proposed Amendments to the Cranston Home Rule Charter

November 8, 2022 General Election

QUESTIONS 4-7 LOCAL BOND QUESTIONS

LOCAL QUESTION 4

4. FIRE EQUIPMENT \$2,000,000 BONDS AND NOTES

(Ordinance of the City Council No. 2022-15 approved June 30, 2022)

Shall two million dollars (\$2,000,000) debt of the City be incurred for the purpose of financing the acquisition of fire equipment by the City's Fire Department under Rhode Island General Laws Section 45-12-2 and an order of the City Council that became effective on June 30, 2022?

- Approve**
- Reject**

Explanation and purpose of Question 4: These bonds will be used to finance the acquisition of fire equipment by the City's fire department. This may include, but is not limited to, the repair and/or replacement of fire apparatus, technology, public safety equipment, training, and facilities.

\$2,000,000 will be borrowed. Acquisition of fire equipment may begin in 2023 and may be completed in approximately two years. Although each asset has a different useful life, the average useful life of the fire equipment financed, including equipment, vehicles, and facility upgrades, is approximately 20 years.

Project Costs		Cost of Issuance*		Total Project and Issuance Costs		
Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Total Costs
\$ 1,960,000	\$920,950	\$40,000	\$18,850	\$2,000,000	\$939,800	\$2,939,800

*Cost of issuance estimated at 2.00% of principal issued.

** Assumes an interest rate of 4.00%, with bonds amortized with level payments over 20 years.

LOCAL QUESTION 5

**5. PUBLIC BUILDINGS
\$3,000,000 BONDS AND NOTES**

(Ordinance of the City Council No. 2022-14 approved June 30, 2022)

Shall three million dollars (\$3,000,000) debt of the City be incurred for the purpose of financing the acquisition, construction, improvement, renovation, repair, and alteration of public buildings in the City under Rhode Island General Laws Section 45-12-2 and an order of the City Council that became effective on June 30, 2022?

- Approve**
- Reject**

Explanation and purpose of Question 5: These bonds will be used to finance acquisition, construction, improvement, renovation, repair, and alteration of public buildings in the City, including, but not limited to, needed upgrades, repairs and renovations to City facilities including heating, ventilation, and air conditioning and related equipment necessary to complete those upgrades.

\$3,000,000 will be borrowed. Construction and renovations on public buildings may begin in 2023 and may be completed in approximately two years. Although each asset has a different useful life, the average useful life of the public building improvements financed will be approximately 20 years. The useful life of the public buildings is at least 50 years. The useful life of furnishings and equipment is approximately 20 years.

Project Costs		Cost of Issuance*		Total Project and Issuance Costs		
Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Total Costs
\$2,960,000	\$1,395,350	\$40,000	\$18,850	\$3,000,000	\$1,414,200	\$4,414,200

* *Cost of issuance estimated at approximately 1.333% of principal issued.*

** *Assumes an interest rate of 4.00%, with bonds amortized with level payments over 20 years.*

LOCAL QUESTION 6

**6. PLAYGROUNDS AND ATHLETIC FIELDS
\$3,500,000 BONDS AND NOTES**

(Ordinance of the City Council No. 2022-16 approved June 30, 2022)

Shall three million five hundred thousand dollars (\$3,500,000) debt of the City be incurred for the purpose of financing the acquisition, construction, improvement, renovation, repair, alteration, and equipping of playgrounds and athletic fields in the City under Rhode Island General Laws Section 45-12-2 and an order of the City Council that became effective on June 30, 2022?

- Approve**
- Reject**

Explanation and purpose of Question 6: These bonds will be used to finance the acquisition, construction, improvement, renovation, repair, alteration, and equipping of playgrounds and athletic fields in the City. These projects may include, but are not limited to, upgrades and repairs to various recreational facilities throughout the City and the related equipment necessary to facilitate said upgrades and repairs.

\$3,500,000 will be borrowed. Construction, renovation, and equipping of playgrounds and athletic fields may begin in 2023 and may be completed in approximately two years. Although each asset has a different useful life, the average useful life of playgrounds and athletic fields is approximately 20 years.

Project Costs		Cost of Issuance*		Total Project and Issuance Costs		
Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Total Costs
\$3,460,000	\$1,634,750	\$40,000	\$18,850	\$3,500,000	\$1,653,600	\$5,153,600

* *Cost of issuance estimated at approximately 1.114% of principal issued.*

** *Assumes an interest rate of 4.00%, with bonds amortized with level payments over 20 years.*

LOCAL QUESTION 7

**7. CITY INFRASTRUCTURE
\$4,000,000 BONDS AND NOTES**

(Ordinance of the City Council No. 2022-17 approved June 30, 2022)

Shall four million dollars (\$4,000,000) debt of the City be incurred for the purpose of financing the construction, improvement, renovation, repair, and alteration of roads, sidewalks, and other City infrastructure under Rhode Island General Laws Section 45-12-2 and an order of the City Council that became effective on June 30, 2022?

- Approve**
- Reject**

Explanation and purpose of Question 7: These bonds will be used to finance the construction, improvement, renovation, repair, and alteration of roads, sidewalks, and other City infrastructure. This may include, but is not limited to, City-wide infrastructure improvements including paving and the associated equipment necessary to construct and maintain said improvements, to include maintenance trucks, dump trucks, street sweepers, and other related equipment.

\$4,000,000 will be borrowed. Construction and renovations of roads, sidewalks, and other City infrastructure may begin in 2023 and may be completed in approximately two years. Although each asset has a different useful life, the average useful life of roads and sidewalks is approximately 50 years.

Project Costs		Cost of Issuance*		Total Project and Issuance Costs		
Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Principal	Interest**	Total Costs
\$3,960,000	\$1,866,150	\$40,000	\$18,850	\$4,000,000	\$1,885,000	\$5,885,000

* *Cost of issuance estimated at 1.00% of principal issued.*

** *Assumes an interest rate of 4.00%, with bonds amortized with level payments over 20 years.*

QUESTIONS 8-9 AMENDMENTS TO CRANSTON HOME RULE CHARTER

LOCAL QUESTION 8

8. CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

(Resolution of the City Council No. 2020-27 adopted June 25, 2020)

Shall an amendment to Section 3.07 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Cranston, to allow notice to council members of special meetings to be sent via regular mail or email, be approved?

Sec. 3.07 - Meetings.

Regular meetings shall be held at such times as the rules of the council shall prescribe; provided, that not less than one regular meeting shall be held each month. Special meetings may be called by the mayor, the president of the council or any three members upon at least twenty-four hours written notice delivered by messenger or registered mail at the place of residence of each member or via email.

- Approve**
- Reject**

Explanation: An out-of-date section of the City Charter requires notice of special meetings of the City Council to be sent to the nine sitting Councilmembers by registered mail or messenger. To reflect modern practices, this modernization to the Charter will allow the option for the City Councilmembers to receive such notices of special meetings via email or regular mail. This change, if approved by voters, will make it easier for the City Council to convene for special meetings to conduct the business and affairs of the City, and will reduce costs in sending said notices to the Council whenever such a meeting shall be called.

LOCAL QUESTION 9

9. CITY CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING

(Resolution of the City Council No. 2020-26 adopted June 25, 2020)

Shall an amendment to Section 2.09 of the Home Rule Charter of the City of Cranston, to remove a requirement for duplicate hard copies of filings of campaign finance reports that are already publicly accessible online from the Board of Elections, be approved?

~~Sec. 2.09 - City campaign contribution reporting.~~

~~All candidates for local municipal office and all party committees in the City of Cranston required to file reports of campaign contributions and expenditures with the State Board of Elections shall file duplicate copies of all such reports with the city clerk. In the event of failures to file by any such candidates or committees, the city clerk shall cause copies of such missing reports to be secured from the State Board, and shall maintain a log of all such reports available in the city clerk's office, and make the log and copies of reports available for public inspection during business hours.~~

- Approve**
- Reject**

Explanation: Eliminating this provision will align the City Charter with state law. This outdated charter provision no longer serves a functional purpose because mandatory campaign finance reports are now readily accessible online via the state Board of Elections. If approved by voters, candidates and party committees will continue to be required by state law to file campaign finance reports with the state Board of Elections, and those reports will continue to be publicly accessible from the state Board and online.

MAIL VOTING NOTICE: If you applied for a mail ballot, you must return your voted ballot in its signed and sealed envelope to the Rhode Island Board of Elections, or to an official ballot drop box, no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 8. In Cranston, 24-hour drop boxes are located at Cranston City Hall, 869 Park Ave (side of the building next to Cranston High School East), and the Rhode Island Board of Elections, 2000 Plainfield Pike (parking lot at the Sailor Way entrance). On Nov. 8, every polling place will have a mail ballot receptacle to return voted mail ballots in sealed envelopes. Any mail ballot can be returned to any official drop box or receptacle, statewide, in its sealed envelope by 8 p.m. on Nov. 8.

This Official Election Notice is sent by the Cranston Canvassing Authority in accordance with Rhode Island law. *Cranston Board of Canvassers, Randall A. Jackvony, Chairperson; Quilcia I. Moronta, Member.*