

The City of Newport

# 2024

# ELECTION GUIDE

- How to Check your Voter Status
- Polling Place Information
- Bond Breakdown
- Early Voting Dates

**TIP:** Know before you go!

Did you know that you can download & print a FREE sample ballot before you head to the polls? Simply visit [Vote.RI.Gov](http://Vote.RI.Gov) and enter your address to see the ballot in its entirety.



The CITY OF NEWPORT  
RHODE ISLAND Settled 1639

**NEWPORT RESIDENT  
43 BROADWAY  
NEWPORT RI, 02840**



## THREE EASY WAYS TO VOTE



**AT HOME  
BY MAIL**



**EARLY  
AT CITY  
HALL\***



**ELECTION  
DAY  
11/05**

### ELECTION DAY

**TUESDAY, NOV. 5TH, 2024  
POLLS OPEN 7 A.M. UNTIL 8 P.M.**

\*Early voting at Newport City Hall available weekdays Oct. 16 - Nov. 4th from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

\*\*Mail Ballots must be deposited in an authorized Drop Box or received at the Board of Elections no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 5th



**Election Day  
Nov. 5th, 2024**



# QUESTION 6

## NEWPORT'S BOND

In addition to voting in local, state, and federal races, Newport voters will also be asked to weigh in on a single Local Ballot question seeking approval of a proposed \$98.5 million bond to make needed investments in three key areas:

### INFRASTRUCTURE, RESILIENCE, AND COMMUNITY



## OVERVIEW

Projects that the City hopes to fund through the bond's passage range from the relatively straightforward, such as the reconstruction of the Elm Street Pier and Perrotti Park bulkhead, to the more ambitious like a preliminary design for daylighting Elizabeth Brook to alleviate flooding in the North End, reimagining Easton's Beach, activating the former Maher Center on Hillside Avenue, and planning for a new Public Safety Complex

## KEY PROJECTS

### Resiliency Improvements to **PERROTTI PARK**



\$20 Million to replace the bulkhead at Perrotti Park & Expand the Harbormaster's Facility

### Rebuilding & Restoring the **ELM STREET PIER**



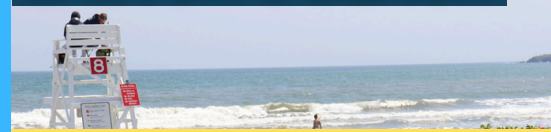
\$2 million to rebuild the Elm Street Pier and make other public access improvements

### Rebuilding & Restoring the **CLIFF WALK**



\$3.75 million will fund repairs to the Cliff Walk between Webster Ave. and 40 Steps

### Restoring & Redesigning **EASTON'S BEACH**



\$11.2 million for beach nourishment and resiliency improvements at Easton's Beach

### Hardening & Protecting **EASTON'S POND**



\$5.375 million will help fund a federal grant to protect Easton's Pond from storm surge

### Completing & Remediating **ROGERS HIGH SCHOOL**



Up to \$10 million will help complete Rogers High School & remove all associated soil

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### HOW MUCH WILL IT COST TAXPAYERS?

If the bond passes and the City issues the entire \$98.5 million, the **average Residential taxpayer** can expect to pay roughly \$346 more in property taxes per year, or **roughly 95 cents per day**. The average Non-resident homeowners can expect to pay \$531 per year above their current rates. (Based on Newport's current Residential Tax Rate, excluding enterprise fund projects.)

**Newport is proud to boast one of the lowest tax rates** in the entire State of Rhode Island and one of the **highest bond ratings, at AA+**. And even though the City will be authorized to issue \$98.5 million in bonds, the actual amount of bonds sold may be less, depending on final project costs.

### WHY DID THE CITY COMBINE PROJECTS?

Similar to the State's proposed Green Bond (Question 4 on the ballot), the decision to combine multiple projects stems from a desire to **bring down the cost of borrowing**, while also allowing the City the ability to make needed investments that can be **paid for over decades through a predictable debt service** rather than through more immediate property tax increases.

### WHAT OTHER PUBLIC INPUT WILL THERE BE?

All of the projects that are listed as part of the bond will require further **public discussion by the City Council** and must go through an open bidding process.

### WILL PROJECTS BE PAID FOR SOLELY BY NEWPORT RESIDENTS?

**No.** In fact, **several projects will be paid for primarily by federal grant funds or user fees.** In the case of both the Perrotti Park improvements and Elm Street Pier, the City will rely on **cruise ship passenger fees** to pay back the entirety of the project amount. Meanwhile, the majority of the funds needed to rebuild the Cliff Walk have also been secured through a **roughly \$13 million federal grant, with City's share totaling \$3.75 million.**

### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IF THE BOND PASSES?

All bonded projects will require additional approvals and public input, including City Council approval for any final expenditures. Projects must also adhere to any and all required public bidding processes, and **even though the City will be authorized to issue \$98.5 million in bonds, the actual amount of bonds sold may be less, depending on final costs.**

## BOND BREAKDOWN

### RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY

Perrotti Park Bulkhead & Renovation of Harbor Master Building: **\$20 million**

Elm Street Pier: **\$2 million**

Cliff Walk Matching Funds: **\$3,750,000**

Seawall Repairs: **\$2.5 million**

Easton's Beach Nourishment Study & Program: **\$11.2 million**

Easton's Pond Hardening & Elizabeth Brook Grant Match: **\$5,375,000**

### COMMUNITY FACILITIES

North End Public Safety Complex: Land Acquisition & Design: **\$13,000,000**

Maher Center Renovation: **\$5,000,000**

### INFRASTRUCTURE

Van Zandt Bridge Removal: **\$12 million**

FY2025 & FY2026 Road Improvement Program: **\$6 million**

Aquidneck Park Sidewalks: **\$115,000**

Rogers HS Landfill & Disposition of Remaining Soil; Rogers Completion: **\$10,000,000**

Easton's Beach Demolition: **\$800,000**

MUNIS ERP Conversion: **\$777,260**

Bond Issuance Costs: **\$607,740**

**Total Amount Authorized by Referendum \$98,500,000**

The above allocations are based on estimates only, and the actual costs of the work may exceed estimates, requiring this Council at a later date to prioritize projects and reallocate proceeds from one project to another



FOR MORE, VISIT

[www.CityofNewport.com/Bond](http://www.CityofNewport.com/Bond)