

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**CHARLESTOWN, RICHMOND, AND HOPKINTON RESIDENTS**  
**CHARIHO BOND REFERENDUM FISCAL IMPACT NOTICE**

On May 7, 2024; 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 three elementary schools (one in each of the towns of Charlestown, Hopkinton, and Richmond) 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:**

**CONSTRUCTION, FURNISHING, AND EQUIPPING OF  
 THREE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS  
 AND IMPROVEMENTS TO SWITCH ROAD CAMPUS  
 \$150,000,000 BONDS AND NOTES**

**(Chapter 8/9 – Local Acts of 2024, H8001/S2550 Effective March 29, 2024)**

“Shall an act passed at the 2024 (H8001/S2550) session of the general assembly entitled ‘AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CHARIHO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO FINANCE THE CONSTRUCTION, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF THREE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (ONE IN EACH OF THE TOWNS OF CHARLESTOWN, RICHMOND AND HOPKINTON) AND IMPROVEMENTS AT THE SWITCH ROAD CAMPUS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, COSTS OF DEMOLITION, DESIGN, HEALTH AND SAFETY PROJECTS, PLAYGROUNDS, LANDSCAPING, PAVING AND ALL EXPENSES INCIDENTAL THERETO BY THE ISSUANCE OF NOT MORE THAN \$150,000,000 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 MORE THAN 76% AT PROJECT COMPLETION ‘ be approved?”

- Approve
- Reject

**Approve**

Your vote to “Approve” means that you support the Chariho Regional School District issuing \$150,000,000 in general obligation bonds to finance Three Elementary Schools and improvements to the Switch Road Campus.

**Reject**

Your vote to “Reject” means that you are against the Chariho Regional School District issuing \$150,000,000 in general obligation bonds to finance Three Elementary Schools and improvements to the Switch Road Campus.

**Explanation and purpose of the Local Question:**

These bonds will be used to finance the construction, renovation, improvement, alteration, repair, landscaping, furnishing and equipping of Three Elementary Schools and improvements to 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 76% of debt service.

**How much money will be borrowed?**

\$150,000,000 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 \$150,000,000 million 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 the District. SUCH REIMBURSEMENT RATE MUST BE AT LEAST 61% FOR THE BONDS TO BE ISSUED AND THE REIMBURSEMENT RATE OR RATIO MAY INCREASE TO MORE THAN 76% of debt service after all the debt is issued and the projects are completed.

**Project timetable:**

The Chariho Regional School District estimates that construction and renovations of the schools and school facilities will begin in 2024 and will be completed in approximately 2029.

**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 30 years. The useful life of information systems is approximately 7 years. The useful life of land improvements is approximately 10 or more years. The useful life of new buildings is approximately 50 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 \$150,000,000 million. Assuming the District receives debt service reimbursement at a 76% ratio, this would leave the Chariho Regional School District responsible for a total of \$37,426,058 million of principal payments plus a total of \$31,640,771 million of interest payments. The District projects that the bonds would be structured with level debt service payments. Therefore, annual debt service payable over 33 years (assuming 3 bond issues, each with a 30-year maturity) including interest payments would be \$69,066,829 million, after receipt of State housing aid reimbursement. State reimbursement is anticipated to be 76% per housing aid regulations. The lowest reimbursement rate is 61% (base) and bonuses up to 20% are available assuming the District meets the regulatory requirements, with a total maximum reimbursement rate of 81% being potentially available.

**EXAMPLE**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Project In Millions \$</b>	<b>Principal In Millions \$</b>	<b>Interest @4.55% In Millions \$</b>	<b>Total Cost In Millions \$</b>
Project Costs	\$156	\$148	\$140	\$288
Costs of Borrowing (in above)				
Pay-as-you Go Grant from State	\$0			
Net Project Cost	\$156	\$148	\$140	\$288
State Reimbursement @ 76%	-	\$112	\$107	\$219
Cost	-	\$35	\$34	\$69
<b>*Annual Debt Service- 30 Years-</b>				
Level Payments	-	\$5.00	\$4.60	\$9.60
State Reimbursement	-	\$3.80	\$3.50	\$7.30
<b>Annual Debt Service (*average)</b>		<b>\$1.20</b>	<b>\$1.10</b>	<b>\$2.30</b>
<b>Property Tax Levy (town share \$)</b>				
Charlestown (24.05% = \$0.13/1000)	0.3	0.3	0.3	<b>\$0.6</b>
Richmond (37.68% = \$0.65/1000)	0.5	0.5	0.5	<b>\$0.9</b>
Hopkinton (38.26% = \$0.67/1000)	0.5	0.5	0.5	<b>\$0.9</b>
<b>Property Tax Levy (per Towns %)</b>				
Charlestown (24.05% = \$0.13/1000)	23/24	add 0.13 to	\$ 5.74/1000	<b>2.23%</b>
Richmond (37.68% = \$0.65/1000)	23/24	add 0.65 to	\$14.76/1000	<b>4.40%</b>
Hopkinton (38.26% = \$0.67/1000)	23/24	add 0.67 to	\$14.66/1000	<b>4.57%</b>

Levy rate from town websites

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

You must be registered to vote from your actual place of residence.

Amy Rose Weinreich, CMC Charlestown Town Clerk	Erin F. Liese, CMC Richmond Town Clerk	Marita Murray Hopkinton Town Clerk
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