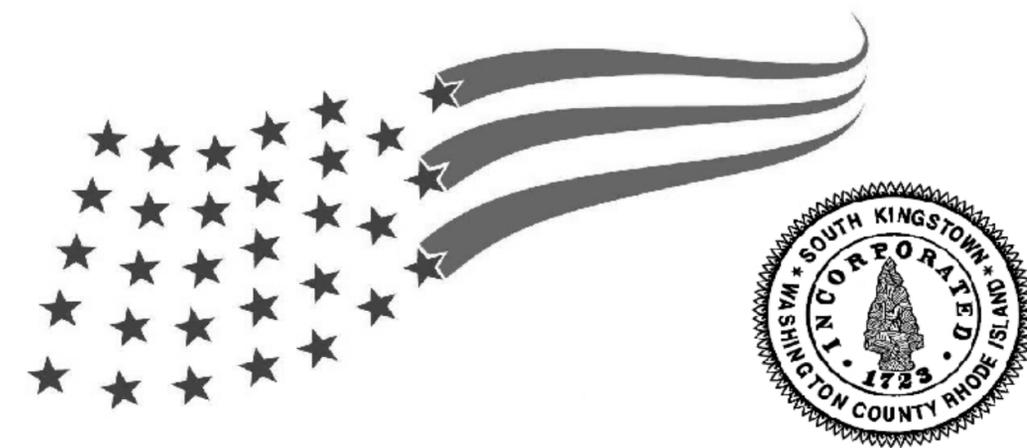


TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN

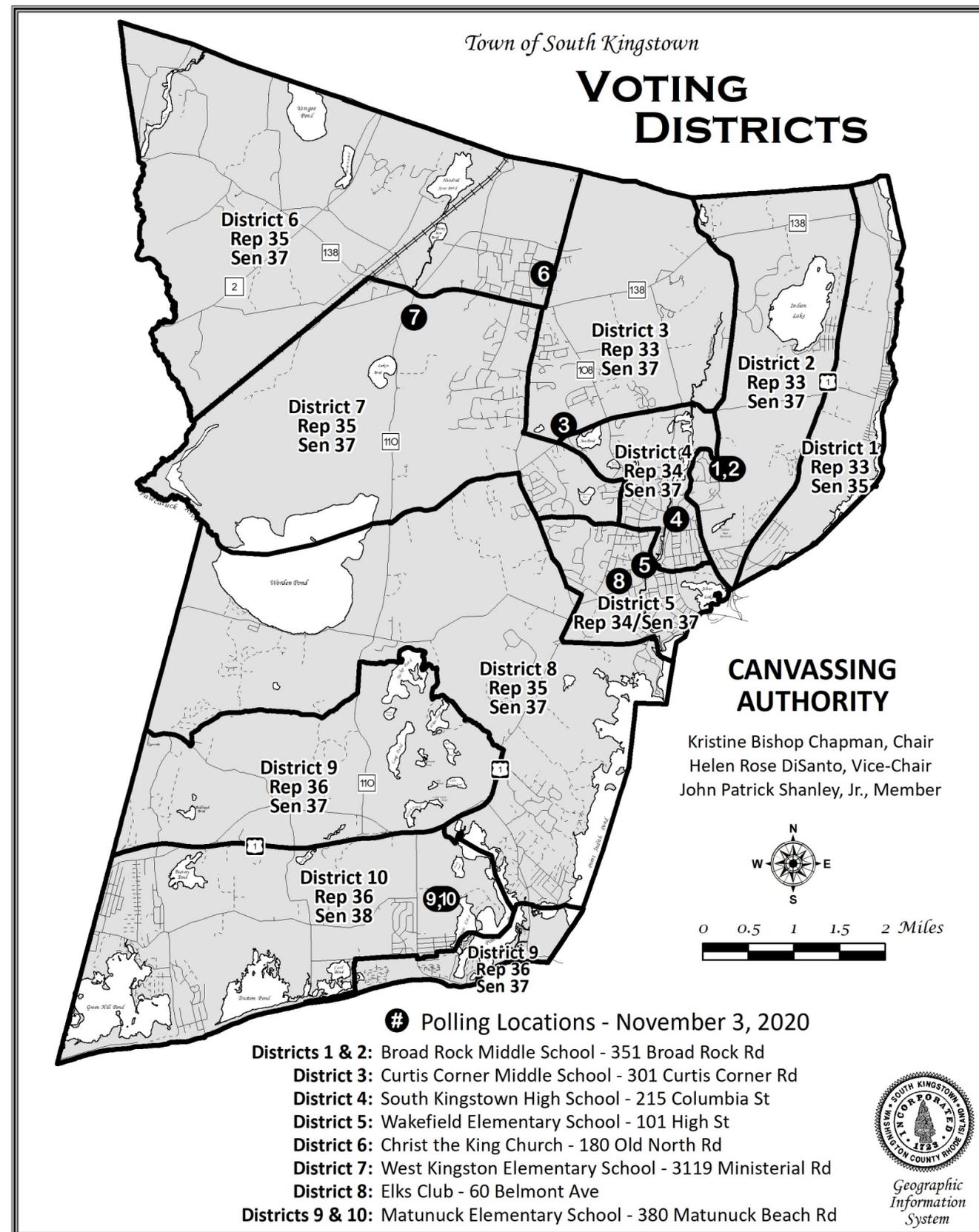
Local Ballot Question Information



Rhode Island General Election
Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Voter Information Guide

180 High Street, Wakefield, RI 02879 (401) 789-9331 x 1231
www.southkingstownri.com



LOCAL BOND QUESTION \$6,500,000

Purpose:

What projects will this bond cover? Approval and issuance of these bonds for \$6,500,000 will provide funding for the Town to address road paving and safety projects (including bicycle and pedestrian safety); improvement of the Town’s police, emergency medical, and firefighter communication systems; and improvements to the Town’s recreation facilities.

How much money will the Town borrow? The question on the November 2020 ballot is for authorization to borrow \$6,500,000.

What is the allocation of the funding? The \$6,500,000 is anticipated to fund the following projects:

Road improvements - \$3,500,000

The Town anticipates the majority of the funds in this category will be used for Phase 2 of the Town’s infrastructure project to construct and maintain an additional 350’ seawall along Matunuck Beach Road. The purpose of the seawall is to protect Matunuck Beach Road from on-going shoreline erosion. If the Town can secure alternate funding then funding from this bond issuance will be used to accelerate the Town’s road improvement program.

The project is “shovel ready” with all regulatory permits in hand. Construction could begin during the winter of 2020-2021, but would likely not be completed until the fall of 2021 since no construction can occur between Memorial Day and Labor Day of a given year due to the summer tourist season.

The estimated useful life of these capital projects is 30+ years.

Traffic safety improvements - \$350,000

Funds will be used to secure additional community-wide traffic signage and bicycle/pedestrian safety improvements.

A traffic calming study would be commissioned during the winter of 2020-2021. Based upon the findings and recommendations of the traffic calming study, various signage and possible physical improvements would be constructed thereafter based upon funding availability.

The estimated useful life of these capital projects is 5 to 20 years, depending on proposed improvement(s)

Communication infrastructure improvement - \$2,200,000

The Town is seeking to create a single Town-wide Radio System that will service the Town’s police and emergency medical services departments and the volunteer fire districts (Union Fire and Kingston Fire). The public services operations will also be able to utilize the same system. The existing RISCOON 800 MHz radio network infrastructure provides inadequate reception and transmission signals in certain areas of town; this lack of proper coverage creates a public safety concern. The Town engaged a communications engineering firm to develop a more robust communication infrastructure network that will provide adequate coverage. The Town is planning to migrate to 400 MHz radio network that has demonstrated better reliability and signal penetration into buildings throughout the community. The estimated cost of this multi-site simulcast system is approximately \$2,800,000. The Town will be responsible for 80% of the total project and the two independent taxing authority fire districts will be responsible for the remaining 20%.

The project timeline is:
 Bid Award December 2020.
 Construction January 2021 – January 2022

The estimated useful life of this capital project is 15 to 20 years.



Old Mountain Field improvements - \$300,000

Old Mountain Field is South Kingstown’s oldest public park, deeded to the Town by the Hazard Family in 1938. To this day it remains one of the Town’s most active recreational facilities, featuring lighted baseball and softball fields, basketball and tennis courts, skateboard park, picnic area, and nature trails.

Construction of New Restroom/Concession Building

The existing restroom, concession and storage facilities at Old Mountain Field are beyond their useful lives and are inadequate for the volume of activity that occurs at the Park on a regular basis. The bond funding would provide the final amount necessary, estimated at \$450,000, to move forward with this project in FY2021-2022. This project was previously submitted for consideration of RIDEM Recreation Development grant funding in FY2019-2020, however it was not selected for award.

The project timeline is:
 Engineering/Design/Master Plan Winter 2021
 Construction Bid Advertisement/Award May-July 2021
 Construction Phase August-September 2021

The estimated useful life of this capital project is 30 years.

Marina Park improvements - \$75,000

Marina Park, located on Salt Pond Road adjacent to Route 1, lies within the Town’s Public Marina Special Management District. This 12 acres of parkland is situated on the north side of Salt Pond Road, and across Salt Pond Road the Town also owns and operates a public boat ramp that serves residents and visitors alike throughout the summer season. The park and boat ramp contribute to the year round economic activity in this special management district which includes two restaurants and three marinas. Summer activity and tourism creates a significant spike for this area in the summer months.

Main Public Boat Ramp

The project entails the complete rehabilitation of the public boat ramp at Marina Park. The existing ramp surface requires complete reconstruction due to its poor condition, at a total estimated cost of \$260,000. Pre-cast concrete boat ramp panels at the toe of the ramp will be removed and replaced and the ramp surface will be overlaid with a 1.5” – 2” Class I asphalt finish course. Because of the significant seasonal use this public ramp experiences, this project is noted as high priority and supported by the Waterfront Advisory Commission. \$75,000 bond funding will provide the balance necessary to move forward with the ramp replacement in FY2021-2022.

The project timeline is:
 Engineering/Design/Master Plan February 2021
 Construction Bid Advertisement/Award April 2021
 Construction Phase October 2021

The estimated useful life of this capital project is 25 years.

Town Beach improvements - \$75,000

Funding will be used to support on-going maintenance and mitigation efforts to address the impact of erosion at the Town beach at Matunuck. The funding will support the Beach Improvement Plan and will accelerate pavilion/structural repairs, sand replenishment, and repair/replacement of playground equipment. Funding will be included in the Town’s Capital Improvement Plan.

The project timeline is:
 Sand replenishment May 2021
 Pavilion structural upgrades September/October 2021
 Playground equipment replacement 2022

The estimated useful life of this capital project is 10 years.

