

## Information about Providence Ballot Questions

### Question #8: \$40 million bond for road repairs

If approved, this question would authorize the City to borrow \$40 million to spend on road and sidewalk repairs throughout the City.

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### Question #9

*Shall the terms used in the Charter be defined as follows for clarity and consistency?* [Adds Section 107]

The amendment provides definitions to be applied to the language used throughout the charter, to ensure consistency in interpretation and application.

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### Question #10:

*Shall charter review commissions be appointed as of September 1, 2021, and every ten years thereafter?* [Amends Section 1302]

The amendment would provide future charter review commissions additional time to review and propose amendments to the charter.

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### Question #11:

*Shall amendments approved by electors of the city be effective upon approval, unless otherwise noted?* [Amends Section 1401]

In accordance with legal requirements, the addition to section 1401 reflects the effective dates of amendments to the charter.

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### Question #12:

*Shall the term "personnel department" be replaced with "human resources department" wherever it appears in the charter?* [Amends Sections 901 through 903]

### Question #13:

*Shall it be the responsibility of the human resources department to enforce the procedures for suspension, discharge, reduction in class position, and layoff of employees?* [Amends Section 903(j).]

### Question #14:

*Shall the responsibilities of the human resources department be changed to eliminate examining and approving all payrolls, and monitoring residency requirements?* [Amends Sections 903 (l) and (p).]

The proposed amendments to Sections 901-903 are primarily “technical,” changing the use of the term “Personnel Department” to “Human Resources Department.” The changes reflect current language and practices. The deletion of 903(p) brings the charter into compliance with current state law by eliminating the director’s duty to monitor employees’ compliance with residency requirements that are no longer enforceable.

Finally, the amendment to the personnel department reflects the more appropriate division of responsibilities for employee hiring and discipline by changing the authority of department heads who hire and promote employees. The hiring authorities will properly recommend to the director of human resources the demotion, suspension and dismissal of employees under their jurisdiction, but will not themselves carry out such actions. This recommendation is consistent with prevailing practices and provides a more equitable disciplinary process.

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**Question #15:**

***Shall the qualifications for the director of the department of public property be a bachelor's degree, or a minimum of five (5) years of experience in the field, with preference to be given to a person with a bachelor's degree?*** [Amends section 1006]

The proposed amendment regarding the required qualifications for the director of the department of public property would permit the hiring of a person who has either five years of work experience or a college degree. The amendment requires that preference be given to a candidate with a college degree.

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**Question #16:**

***Shall the Providence Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Protection Department be placed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Safety, under the supervision of the Commissioner of Public Safety?*** [Amends Section 1001]

The amendment places Providence Emergency Management Agency and Department of Homeland Security (“PEMA”) under the Department of Public Safety. The PEMA director and the members of the PEMA council will work under the supervision of, and report to the Commissioner of Public Safety, but remain mayoral appointees.

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**Question #17:**

***Shall the Charter prohibit city officials from using their authority or influence to secure city employment for any person within his or her family or any business associates?*** [Amends Section 1206 to add subsection (e)]

The amendment would prohibit the use of influence in hiring family members or business associates, and specifically applies to the mayor, city council and department heads.

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**Question #18:**

***Shall the committee on ward boundaries be elected by the city council in January of 2021 and every tenth year thereafter, and shall new requirements for revising ward boundary lines be established to include additional public hearings and opportunities for public comment, specifications for council approval of the plan, and criteria for drawing ward boundaries?*** [Amends Section 204]

The amendments would give the committee on ward boundaries an additional nine (9) months to review and revise ward boundaries every 10 years; change public comment and public notice requirements; change council voting requirements on revised ward maps; and add several new criteria for drawing ward boundaries. The Providence Journal published an op-ed explaining the case in favor of this amendment. You can read it by clicking on this link: [Question 18 op-ed](#)