2018 Language Access For Voters Summit

Presentation by:

Nellie M. Gorbea, Rhode Island Secretary of State





President Lyndon Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act of 1965



Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act is added in 1975

"BILINGUAL ELECTION REQUIREMENTS

"Sec. 203. (a) The Congress finds that, through the use of various practices and procedures, citizens of language minorities have been effectively excluded from participation in the electoral process. Among other factors, the denial of the right to vote of such minority group citizens is ordinarily directly related to the unequal educational opportunities afforded them, resulting in high illiteracy and low voting participation. The Congress declares that, in order to enforce the guarantees of the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the United States Constitution, it is necessary to eliminate such discrimination by prohibiting these practices, and by prescribing other remedial devices.

"(b) Prior to August 6, 1985, no State or political subdivision shall

Newspaper Article describing use of Spanish Ballots 1992 Central Falls Election

PAWTUCKET/CENTRAL FALLS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1992

CF's Spanish ballots will make history next week

BY DAVID CHMIELEWSKI

CENTRAL FALLS — When voters go to the polls Tuesday, they will be offered a historic, first-ever choice in the state. They will have choice of selecting a ballot in English or Spanish

Central Falls is the only community in the state where there will be ballots in two languages. The city was ordered to offer the bilingual ballots by the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Justice Department.

Gertrude Chartier, Board of Canvassers registrar, said federal law provides that when 5 percent of the population 18 or older is of a Hispanic background based on the 1990 census, a Spanish-language ballot is

Chartier said in addition to the bilingual ballot, other notices including a listing of

polling places and ballot questions have also been translated into Spanish.

Spanish-language copies of the ballot questions along with other publications are available at the Board of Cavassers office at City Hall and other locations in Central Falls.

Bilingual poll workers have also been assigned to the city's nine polling places, including the Board of Canvassers office, to assist both English and Spanish-speaking

"Because we received notices too late to change the voting machines, all the Spanish-language ballots will be paper ballots. I'm really not sure how many voters will ask for the Spanish ballots," said Chartier.

The city has a total of 6,106 registered voters eligible to participate in the Nov. 3

Chartier estimated that because of the

interest in the race for president, 60 to 65 percent of the registered voters could cast ballots. "People are into the voting scene, but all they want to vote for is the president. There does not appear to be much interest in the state races.

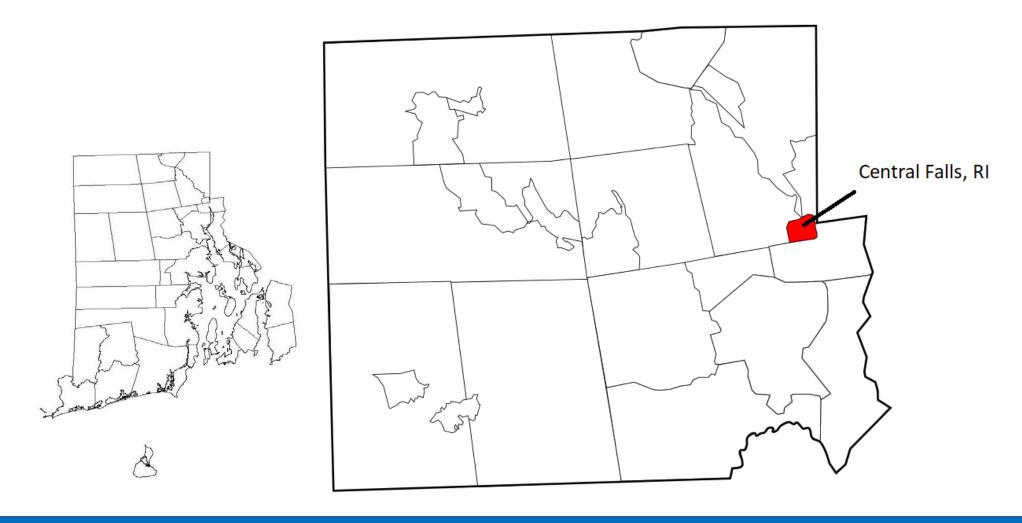
The registrar also said she has about 30 voters so far who have qualified for a limited ballot which allows votes for only president and vice president.

Under amendments to the election laws, voters can register and vote on the limited ballot Election Day even if they failed to register by the Oct. 3 deadline.

Those eligible for a limited paper ballot will be able to vote at the Board of Canvassers office at City Hall only. The polling places in the city will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

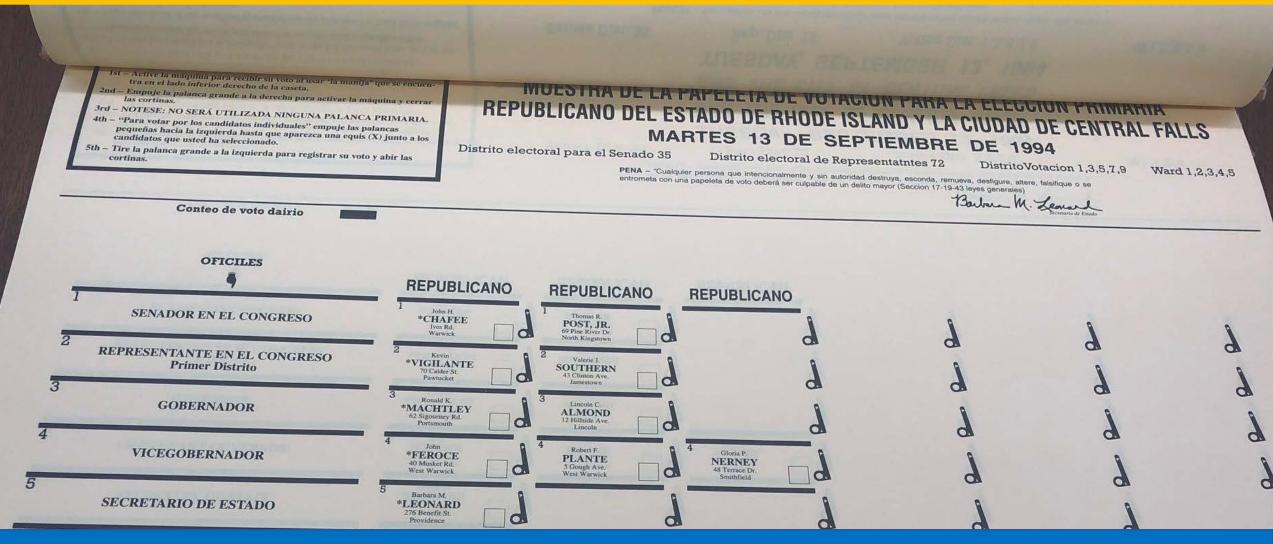


First Municipality in RI to meet Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act

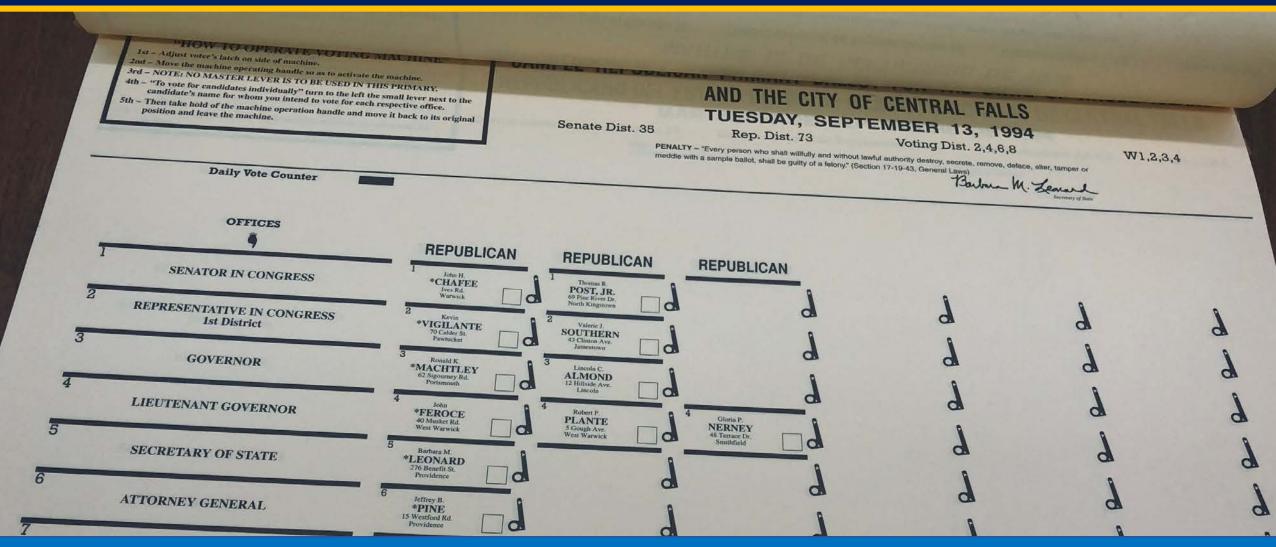




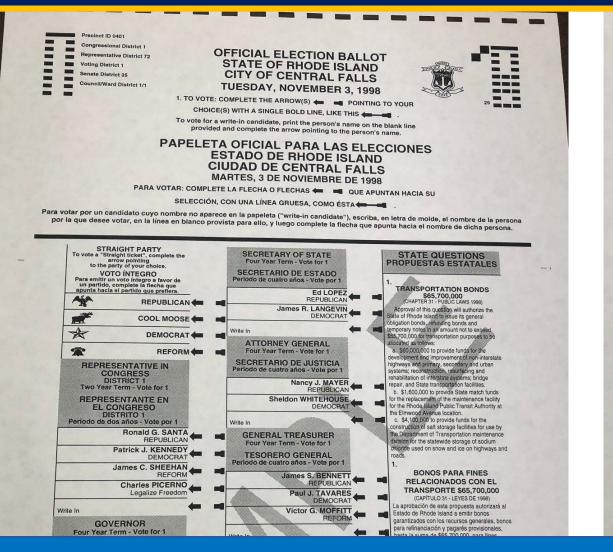
Close-up of Central Falls Spanish Ballot, 1994 Shoup Voting Machine



Close-up of Central Falls English Ballot, 1994 Shoup Voting Machine



Front and Back of 1998 Eagle Ballot used in Central Falls General Election



STATE QUESTIONS
Continued
PROPUESTAS ESTATALES
Continuación

HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES BONDS \$20,990,000

(CHAPTER 31 - PUBLIC LAWS 1998)

Approval of this question will authorize the State of Rhode Island to issue its general obligation bonds, refunding bonds and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$20,990,000 for higher education purposes to be allocated as follows:

- a. \$5,060,000 to provide funds for a major rehabilitation of approximately \$1,824 square feet at Independence Hall at the University of Rhode Island, to include University of Rhode Island, to include systems, locking systems, and furnishings.
- b. \$4,980,000 to provide funds for a major rehabilisation of approximately 36,852 source feet at Lippit Hall at the University of Phode Island, to include replacement and modernization of major systems, roof, and modernization of major systems, roof, very constitution and air conditioning (HVAC), shall be sh
- c. \$4,300,000 to provide funds for the renovation of 5 buildings (approximately 50,000 square feet) on the East Campus at Rhode Island College and the renovation of approximately 12, 500 square feet on the existing Campus. Upon renovation of these former Department of Children, Youth and Famillies (DCVF) facilities, both eaderine and administrative facilities will be relocated to the East Campus and some space vacated by those departments will be refutitished.
- d. \$6,650,000 to provide funds for the construction and equipping of an addition to the Providence Campus of the Community College of Rhode Island adding approximately 40,000 square feet of space to the existing facility, including lab, office, study areas, child day care center, and parking for 75-100 vehicles.

BONOS PARA FINANCIAR INSTALACIONES DE EDUCACIÓN SUPERIOR \$20,990,000

(CAPÍTULO 31 - LEYES DE 1998)

La aprobación de esta propuesta autorizará al Estado de Phode Island a emitir bonos garantizados con los recursos generales, bonos para refinanciación y pagarés provisionales, hasta la suma de \$20,990,000, para fines relacionados con la educación superior. Dichos fondos se consignarán de la siguiente manera:

 a. \$5,060,000 para proveer fondos para la rehabilitación extensa de alrededor de 51,824 pies cuadrados del edificio d. \$6,850,000 para proveer fondos para construir y dotar de equipo una adición de alrededor de 40,000 pies cuadrados a las actuales instalaciones del recinto de Providende el Community Colégo el Phodo Island, que incluirá espacios para laboratorios, oficinas, áreas de estudio, una guardería o centro de cuidado para niños y estacionamiento para entre 75 y 100 ey venicuios.

Question 2 Propuesta 2 APPROVE -

Question 2 Propuesta 2 REJECT EN CONTRA

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BONDS \$15,000,000 (CHAPTER 31 - PUBLIC LAWS 1998)

Approval of this question will authorize the State of Rhode Island to issue its general obligation bonds, refunding bonds and temporary notes, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000,000 for environmental and recreational purposes, specifically for the acquisition and development of greenways to be allocated as follows:

- a. \$5,000,000 to provide funds for the Department of Environmental Management to purchase or otherwise permanently protect, through the purchase of development rights, conservation easements and public recreation easements, greenways and other open space. agricultural land, forested lands and for the purchase of development rights by the Agricultural Land Preservation Commission to preserve farmland throughout the State consistent with the "Greenways, Greenspace" element of the State Guide Plan and the Department of Environmental Management Land Protection Plan. The Director of the Department of Environmental Management may award up to \$2,500,000 to communities and local land trusts conservation commissions and other environmental non-profit organizations to provide matching funds for acquisitions, easements development rights, etc. on land consistent with the State Guide Plan.
- b. \$10,000,000 to provide funds for the development and promotion of bike paths throughout the State. Funding would be distributed as foliaves; if) \$5,000,000 to provide matching funds for Department of Transportation and Federal, Highway Administration funding for the design and construction of the foliavery, the Washington Secondary(Coveranty Greefmay/Trestle Trail, and the South County Elikoway, and (ii) \$5,000,000 to provide funds to the Department of Environmental Management for the design and construction of local bikeways and recreational greenways are primarily off-road facilities that connect areas such as State and local parks, open space; regional bikeways.

de aprovechar y desarrollar terrenos, para conservar tierras para usos agrícolas por todo el estado, de conformidad con el Plan Rector del Estado, en su sección 'Greenways, Greenspace* ("Zonas verdes, espacios verdes"), y de conformidad con el plan para la rotección de Tierras del Departamento de Control Ambiental. El Director del Departamento de Control Ambiental podrá asignar hasta \$2,500,000 a las comunidades y consorcios locales que fomentan la conservación de terrenos, a las comisiones de conservación y a otras organizaciones ambientalistas sin fines de lucro, para proveerles los fondos correspondientes a sus sportaciones ("matching funds") para la adquisición de terrenos, de servidumbres, de derechos de aprovechar y desarrollar, etc., de onformidad con lo dispuesto en el Plan Rector

b. \$10,000,000 para proveer fondos para el desarrollo y promoción de vías para bicicletas por todo el Estado. Los fondos se distribuirían de la siguiente manera: (i) \$5,000,000 para proveerles al Departamento de Transporte y a la Administración Federal de Carreteras ("Federal Highway Administration") los fondos dientes a sus aportaciones paralelas "matching funds") para el diseño y la construcción de los siguientes caminos regionales para el tránsito de bicicletas: Blackstone Bikeway, Washington Secondary/Coventry Greenway/Trestle Trail y South County Bikeway, y (ii) \$5,000,000 para provierle fondos al Departamento de Control Ambiental para el diseño y construcción de caminos locales para bicicletas y de áreas verdes para fines recreativos. Tanto los caminos locales para bicicletas como las áreas verdes para fines recreativos son orimordialmente extensiones de tierra no pavimentadas que conectan áreas talés com parques del estado y parques municipales espacios abiertos, caminos regionales para dicicletas, centros municipales, centro empresariales, con otras áreas vertros de conformidad con la sección sobre espacios verdes ("Greenspace Element") del Plan Rector

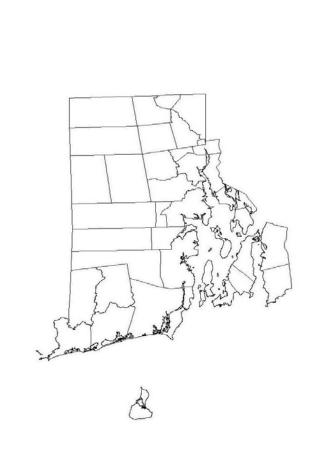
Queda a la discreción del Director del Departamento de Control Ambiental la utilización de logisios para concederles subvenciones el agudas a las comunidades municipales para el diseño y la construcción de caminos locales para bicicletas y de áreas verdes para lines recreativos, entendiendose que dichas municipalidades aportarán sus correspondientes fondos paralelos.

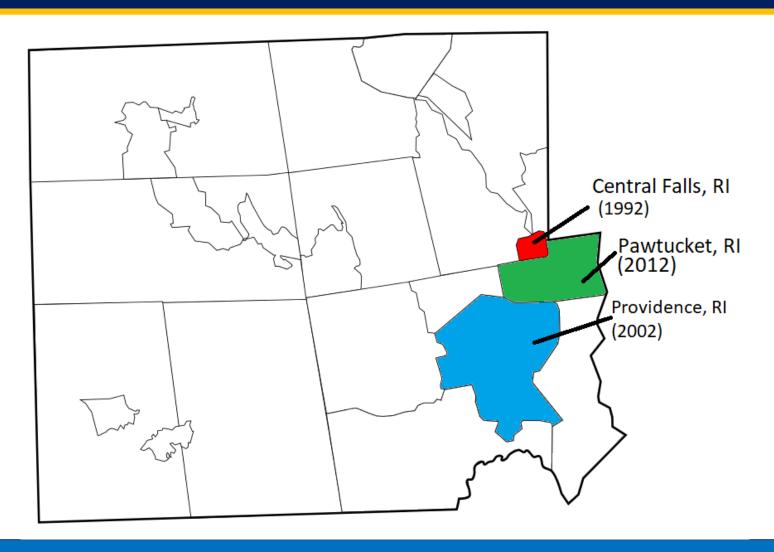
Question 3 Propuesta 3 APPROVE A FAVOR

Question 3 Propuesta 3 REJECT EN CONTRA



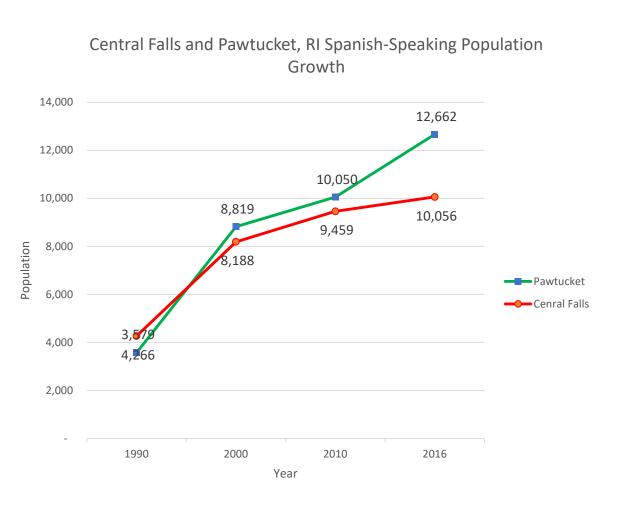
Three Municipalities in RI that meet Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act

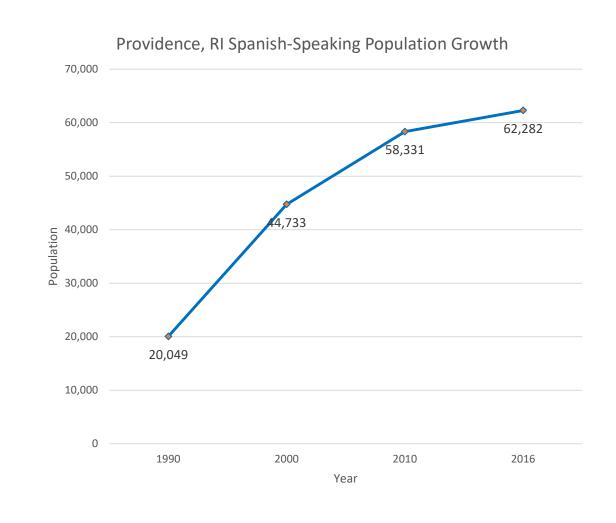






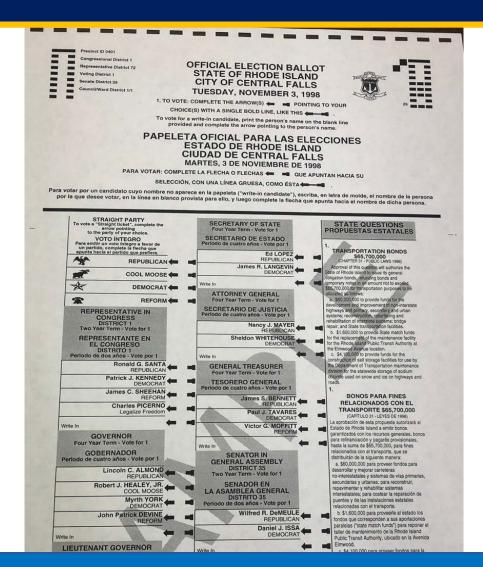
RI Census Data- Language Spoken at Home 1990-2016

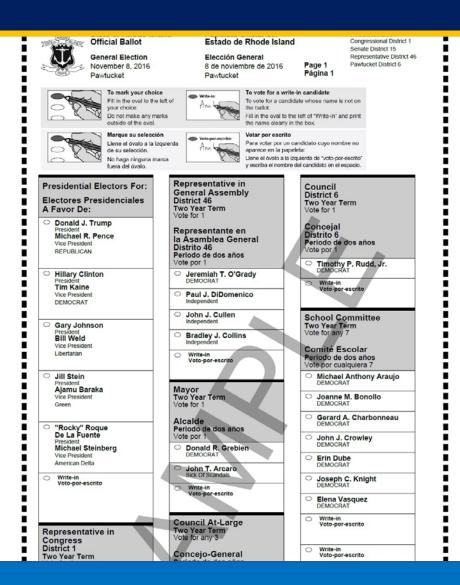




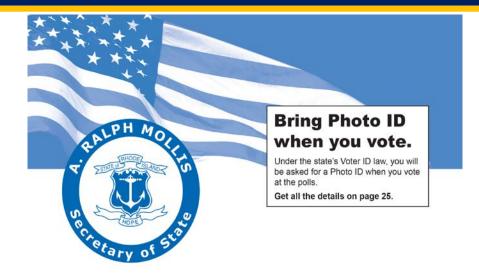


1998 General Election Ballot vs 2016 Re-designed General Election Ballot





2014 and 2016 Voter Information Handbooks



NOTER INFORMATION HANDBOOK 2014

November 4, 2014

A Guide to State Referenda and Voting Procedures



Voter Information Handbook

A Guide to State Referenda and Voting Procedures in Rhode Island

General Election

November 8, 2016







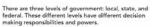






Levels of Government Infographics in English and Spanish

THE ISSUES
WHO DOES WHAT?



If we want to bring about change on an issue that matters to us, we need to know which part of government oversees it.

		0	\$	
Issues that affect us:		CITY/TOWN LOCAL Mayor Town Administrator City/town Council School Committee	RHODE ISLAND STATE Governor General Officers State Representatives State Senators	UNITED STATES FEDERAL President Vice President US Representatives US Senators
	School uniforms	0		
5	School days required		±	
EDUCATION	Time for recess	0	ů	
	Expand recycling	0		
Ø	Ban smoking on beaches	0	÷	
ENVIRONMENT	Provide clean drinking water	0	‡	
0	More crosswalks	0	4	
•	Drunk driving laws		÷	
PUBLIC SAFETY	Laws about guns		±.	
	Affordable housing	0	.	
\$	Taxes	0	ů.	固
ECONOMY	Creating jobs	0	ů	
7	More bike paths	0		
10	Public busses and trains		.	
TRANSPORTATION	Better sidewalks	0		



Hay tres niveles de gobierno: local, estatal y federal. Estos niveles diferentes tienen diferentes responsabilidades y poderes para tomar decisiones.

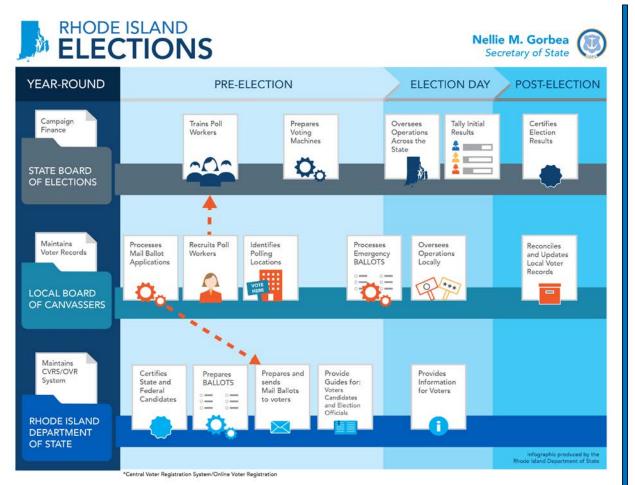
responsabilidades y poderes para tomar decisiones.

Si queremos generar un cambio en un tema que nos importa, necesitamos saber qué parte del gobierno lo supervisa.



		0	\$	
Los problemas que nos afectan:		CIUDAD/PUEBLO LOCAL Alcalde Administrator del Pueblo Concejo Municipal Comite Escolar	RHODE ISLAND ESTADO Gobernador Ejecutivos Estatales Senadores Estatales Representantes Estatales	ESTADOS UNIDOS FEDERAL Presidente Vicepresidente Senadores del Congreso Representantes del Congres
	Uniformes escolares	0		
8	Días escolares requeridos		÷	
LA EDUCACIÓN	Tiempo para recreo	•	\$	
EL MEDIO AMBIENTE	Expandir el reciclaje	0		
	Prohibir fumar en las playas	0	#	
	Proporcionar agua potable limpia	0	±	
Q LA SEGURIDAD PÚBLICA	Más cruces peatonales	0		
	Leyes de conducir bajo el efecto del alcohol		ů	
	Leyes sobre armas de fuego		*	
S LA ECONOMÍA	Vivienda asequible	0	Ů	昌
	Impuestos	0	ů	
	Creación de empleos	0	\$	
Û	Mas ciclovías	0	.	
	Autobuses y trenes de transporte público	5	ů	
LA TRANSPORTACIÓN	Mejores aceras peatonales	0		

Rhode Island Elections Structure in English and Spanish







Speaking Up in English and Spanish

RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT



SPEAKING UP HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Rhode Island, like the United States, has a representative democracy. That means we choose people to represent us in government by voting for them in elections. American citizens gain the right to vote when they turn 18. Voting is an important civic responsibility!

Even after election day, elected officials need to hear from the people that they represent.

WHAT IF...

Someone proposes a bill with which you really...

agree

or

you do? disagree

YOU CAN...



Contact your government officials by mail, email, or telephone, or speak with them in person to let them know what you think. Find their contact information at sos.ri.gov/govdirectory.



Write a letter to your newspaper explaining why you agree or disagree with the proposed bill.

What can



Write a statement about the bill and ask people to sign it. This is called a



Find people who agree with you DISAGREE!) and hold a peaceful demonstration or rally. Rhode Islanders of all ages come to the Rhode Island State House with signs to make sure their government knows what they want.



Give your opinion (testify) at a hearing. A hearing is when a committee of legislators gather to hear others' opinions of the proposed bill, and prepare to make a recommendation to the rest of the legislative body.

After legislators have considered a proposed bill, they vote on it in the Rhode Island State House. You can watch the vote from the public galleries in the Senate and House of Representatives, or on Capitol TV, rilin.state.ri.us/captv.

GOBIERNO DE RHODE ISLAND



ALCÉ SU VOZ

CÓMO PARTICIPAR

Rhode Island, como los Estados Unidos, tiene una democracia representativa. Eso significa que elegimos personas para que nos representen en el gobierno votando por ellas en las elecciones. Los ciudadanos estadounidenses obtienen el derecho al voto cuando cumplen 18 años. ¡El voto es una responsabilidad cívica importante! Incluso después del día de las elecciones, los funcionarios electos necesitan escuchar de las personas que representan.

QUE TAL SI...

Alguien propone un proyecto de ley con el que usted realmente esta..



desacuerdo

¿Qué puede hacer?

USTED PUEDE...



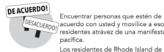
Comunicarse con los funcionarios electos por correo postal, correo electrónico, por teléfono, o hable con ellos en persona para informarles lo que piensa. Encuentre su información de contacto en sos.ri.gov/ govdirectory.



Escribirle una carta a su periódico explicando el por qué está de acuerdo o en desacuerdo con la propuesta de



Escribir una declaración sobre el proyecto de ley y pedirle a la gente que lo firme. Esto se llama una petición.



Encuentrar personas que estén de DESACUERDON acuerdo con usted y movilice a esos residentes atrávez de una manifestación



Dar su opinión y testificar en una audiencia legislativa. Una audiencia es cuando un comité de legisladores se reúne para escuchar las opiniones de los demás sobre el proyecto de ley propuesto, y se prepara para hacer una recomendación al resto del cuerpo legislativo.

para asegurarse de que su gobierno sepa lo que quieren.

todas las edades visitan a la Casa

Estatal de Rhode Island con letreros

Después de que los legisladores hayan considerado un proyecto de ley, se somete a votación en la Casa Estatal de Rhode Island. La votación se puede ver desde las galerías públicas en la Cámara del Senado y la Cámara de Representantes, o en Capitol TV, rilin.state.ri.us/captv.

How a Bill Becomes Law in English and Spanish

RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT



HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW



Your idea can become a law! Bring your idea to your local Senator or Representative.



The bill is introduced. The Senator or Representative may introduce your idea as a bill in his or her respective chamber.



The bill is assigned to a committee. Most bills are assigned to a committee for review.



The bill is approved. If both chambers approve the bill, it is then submitted to the Governor.



The bill goes to both chambers. Once the bill has been approved, it is transferred to the other chamber to undergo a similar process

of review and approval.



The bill is analyzed. The committee makes recommendations and returns the bill to the originating chamber where it is voted on.



At the Governor's desk... If the Governor disapproves of the bill, he or she may veto it and return it to the legislature. If 3/5 of the Senators or Representatives approve the bill it becomes a law without the Governor's approval.



proves the bill! the bill into law, or allow it to become effective without his or her signa-

The Governor ap-



Congratulations! Your idea is now a law!

GOBIERNO DE RHODE ISLAND

COMO UN PROYECTO SE CONVIERTE EN LEY



¡Tú idea puede convertirse en una ley! Presentale tu idea a tu Senador o Representante



El proyecto de ley es aprobado. Si ambas cámaras aprueban el proyecto de ley, se le presentan al Gobernador



En el escritorio del Gobernador... Si el Gobernador desaprueba el proyecto de ley, él o ella puede vetarlo y devolverlo a la legislatura. Si 3/5 de los Senadores o Representantes aprueban el provecto de lev, se convierte en lev sin la aprobación del Gobernador



El proyecto de ley es introducido. Un Senador o Representante puede introducir tu idea como un proyecto de ley en su cámara respectiva.



El proyecto de ley va a ambas cámaras. Una vez que el proyecto ha sido aprobado se transfiere a la otra cámara para someterse a un

proceso similar de revisión y



¡El gobernador aprueba el provecto de ley! El gobernador puede firmar la lev, o permitir que sea

efectiva sin su firma.



El proyecto de ley es asignado a un Comité. La mayoría de los proyectos de ley se asignan a un



El proyecto de ley es analizado. El Comité hace

recomendaciones v devuelve el proyecto de ley a la cámara de origen donde será sometido a



¡Felicitaciones! :Tu idea ahora es una lev!

Municipal Government Structures in English and Spanish

RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT

MUNICIPAL **GOVERNMENT**

Rhode Island cities and towns have many different forms of government, but most have someone in an executive branch role and groups of people who fill legislative roles. Together they make decisions about your community. Who makes up your local government?

EXECUTIVE	
Depending on where you live, might have a mayor, a town ma or someone else who acts as th executive of your city or town.	nager,

CITY/TOWN COUNCIL

LEGISLATIVE

In most municipalities, voters cast ballots for all of the council members, so a resident of a town with a five-person tow council is allowed to vote for five people to fill those positions. In others, voters may only vote for one council member who will represent their neighborhood or ward. In those instances, voters are sometimes also permitted to vote for additional council members who represent the entire municipality; they are called "at-large" council members.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE/ **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Rhode Island cities and towns also have School Committees or Boards of Trustees. They vote on issues like school uniforms, have the power to dedicate money for playgrounds and special programs, and make other important decisions about schools. In some cities and towns these officials are elected; in



☐ Other

How many people are on your town or city council?

Do you have a...

☐ Town Manager

☐ City Manager

□ Appointed

Is this position...

How many council members do individual voters get to

How many members does			
your School Committee or			
Board of Trustees have?			

Are they elected or appointed?

☐ Elected

They are _



Now that you've learned about your local government, summarize what you've learned.

(your city/to	wn)	
we have a .		

(elected or appointed)

(who does the electing	or
appointing?)	

We have a

council. (city/town)

The council has members. (number of members)

I will be able to vote for (number of members) members when I turn 18.

Decisions about my school are made by a

(School Committee/Board of

(number of members)

(elected/appointed)

GOBIERNO DE RHODE ISLAND

GOBIERNO

MUNICIPAL

Las ciudades y pueblos de Rhode Island tienen muchas formas diferentes de gobierno, pero la mayoría tiene a alguien que se desempeña como ejecutivo y grupos de personas que cumplen funciones legislativas. Juntos, ellos toman decisiones sobre su comunidad. ¿Quién forma parte de su gobierno local?



elijen a todos los miembros del concejo. Un residente de un pueblo con un concejo municipal de cinco miembros puede votar por cinco candidatos para ocupar esos cargos. En otros, los votantes solo pueden votar por un miembro del concejo que represente a su barrio o vencindad. En esc casos, a los votantes a veces también se les permite votar por miembros adicionale del concejo que representen a todo el municipio; se les refieren como miembros del concejo general.

COMITÉ ESCOLAR/ CONCEJO DE FIDEICOMISARIOS

Las ciudades y pueblos de Rhode Island también tienen Comités Escolares o Juntas de Fideicomisarios. Votan sobre asuntos como los uniformes escolares, tienen el poder de reservar dinero para equipos para los parques infantiles y programas especiales. Tambien toman otras decisione importantes sobre las escuelas. En algunas ciudades y pueblos, estos funcionarios sor elegidos; en otros están nombrados.

¿Cuántos miembros hay en su

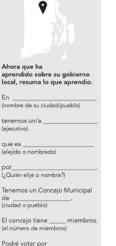
Cuántos miembros del Concejo Municipal eligen los votantes?

¿Cuántos miembros tiene su Comité Escolar/Conceio de Fideicomisarios?

¿Son elegidos o nombrados?

□ Nombrado





(número de miembros

miembros cuando cumpla 18

Las decisiones sobre mi escuela

años de edad.

son hechas por un

Fideicomisarios)

Ellos son

(Comité Escolar/Concejo de

(el número de miembros)

(eleiidos/nombrados)



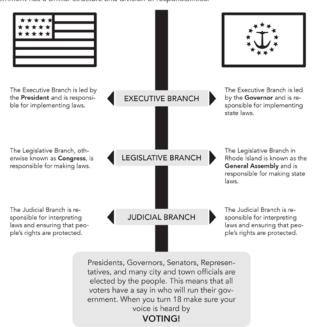
Federal and State Branches of Government in English and Spanish

RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT



GOVERNMENTBRANCHES

The U.S. Constitution defines the structure and responsibilities of the federal government. The federal government consists of three branches: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. Each of these branches has a specific responsibility, none more important than the other. By giving each branch an equal role, the framers of the Constitution tried to ensure that no single branch of government would become too powerful. This system is commonly called "checks and balances." Rhode Island's state government has a similar structure and division of responsibilities.



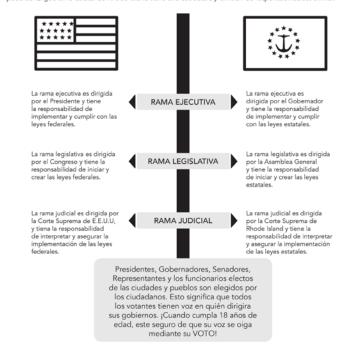
GOBIERNO DE RHODE ISLAND



LAS RAMAS

DEL GOBIERNO

La Constitución de los Estados Unidos define la estructura y las responsabilidades del gobierno federal. El gobierno federal consiste de tres ramas: la ejecutiva, la legislativa y la judicial. Cada una de estas ramas tiene una responsabilidad específica, nirguna es más importante que la otra. Al otorgarle a cada rama un papel equitativo de importancia, los autores de la constitución se aseguraron que una rama del gobierno no sería demasiado poderosa. Este sistema se denomina comúnmente como el mecanismo de control y equilibirio de poderes. El gobierno estatal de Rhode Island tiene una estructura y división de responsabilidades similar.



how I look at a guy who is registered to vote

