

QUESTION 2

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2.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (ELECTIONS – RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS)

(Section 1 of Article XIV of the Constitution)

Approval of the amendment to the Rhode Island Constitution set forth below will provide that no person who is incarcerated in a correctional facility upon a felony conviction shall be permitted to vote until such person is discharged from the facility, at which point that person's right to vote shall be restored:

APPROVE ←

REJECT ←

Full text of amendment for Question 2

Section 1 of Article II of the Constitution shall be amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Persons entitled to vote. Every citizen of the United States of the age of eighteen years or over who has had residence and home in this state for thirty days next preceding the time of voting, who has resided thirty days in the town or city from which such citizen desires to vote, and whose name shall be registered at least thirty days next preceding the time of voting as provided by law, shall have the right to vote for all offices to be elected and on all questions submitted to the electors, except that no person who has been lawfully adjudicated to be non compos mentis shall be permitted to vote. No person who is incarcerated in a correctional facility upon a felony conviction shall be permitted to vote until such person is discharged from the facility. Upon discharge, such person's right to vote shall be restored. The general assembly may provide by law for shorter state and local residence requirements to vote for electors for president and vice president of the United States.

EXPLANATION 2

EXPLANATION FOR QUESTION 2:

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (ELECTIONS – RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS)

PURPOSE AND EXPLANATION: What would approval of this question do?

The Rhode Island Constitution presently bars convicted felons from voting until their entire sentence, including probation and parole, has been served or suspended. The General Assembly has proposed by joint resolution an amendment to the Rhode Island Constitution in accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of Article XIV of the Constitution for approval by the State's electors. If approved, the proposed amendment to the Rhode Island Constitution referenced below will have the effect of restoring voting rights to convicted felons who are probationers and parolees.

Section 1 of Article II of the Constitution shall be amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Persons entitled to vote. Every citizen of the United States of the age of eighteen years or over who has had residence and home in this state for thirty days next preceding the time of voting, who has resided thirty days in the town or city from which such citizen desires to vote, and whose name shall be registered at least thirty days next preceding the time of voting as provided by law, shall have the right to vote for all offices to be elected and on all questions submitted to the electors, except that no person who has been lawfully adjudicated to be non compos mentis shall be permitted to vote. No ~~felon~~ person who is incarcerated in a correctional facility upon a felony conviction shall be permitted to vote until completion of such felon's sentence, served or suspended, and of parole or probation regardless of a nolo contendere plea person is discharged from the facility. Upon ~~such completion~~ discharge, such person's right to vote shall be restored. The general assembly may provide by law for shorter state and local residence requirements to vote for electors for president and vice president of the United States.

The words and phrases in the proposed amendment to the Constitution set forth above that have been crossed-out are words and phrases currently found in Section 1 of Article II of the Constitution that would be removed by the amendment. The words and phrases in the proposed amendment to the Constitution set forth above that have been underlined are words and phrases that are not currently found in Section 1 of Article II of the Constitution that would be added by the amendment.

A vote to "Approve" means you would allow convicted felons to vote upon completion of their prison sentence, whether or not they are probationers or parolees.

A vote to "Reject" means that you want convicted felons to complete their entire sentence, including probation or parole, before they can vote.

HOW MUCH MONEY WILL BE BORROWED?

The referendum would not authorize any borrowing.