



VOTE YES on Question 6 - Environmental Management Bonds

Rhode Island has one of the nation's most distinctive and unique environments. Iconic landscapes - rolling hills, miles of shoreline along our rivers, ponds and Narragansett Bay, historic stone walls, working farms, world-class beaches and parks. These are sources of great pride and enjoyment in every community. They enhance the quality of life for all Rhode Islanders and are a powerful economic driver in our state.

Voting YES on Question 6 is an investment in Rhode Island's economy and in our future:

✓ Protecting Farmland.....\$4.5 million

To fund the State's program that permanently protects productive farmland and maintains agriculture in Rhode Island. Locally grown foods are an essential part of Rhode Island's economy and scenic landscape.

- Only ¼ of Rhode Island's farmland is currently protected.
- Bond funds help provide the matching funds we need to obtain over \$5 million per year in federal farmland protection funding.

✓ Protecting Open Space.....\$5 million

To fund programs that protect the special places in our communities.

- \$2.5 M for the state's land acquisition program to protect iconic properties - for state parks, beaches and shoreline areas - that provide public access for our enjoyment and outdoor recreation activities. These are the lands that define the beauty of Rhode Island.
- \$2.5 M in matching grants to municipalities, land trusts and other environmental non-profit organizations for community-based efforts that preserve locally important open space for water protection, wildlife habitat, farms, forests, scenic vistas and community character.

✓ Improving and Creating Municipal Parks & Restoring Historic Parks.....\$6.5 million

These funds will be used to grow our state's tourism and outdoor recreation economy. Municipal parks are important for improving community health, revitalizing main streets and other urban areas.

- \$5.5 M in matching grants to help municipalities acquire and develop parks, playgrounds, ball fields and other active outdoor recreation facilities; and
- \$1.0 M in grants to municipalities to restore and develop historic and passive parks that are especially important for heritage tourism.

✓ Protecting Water Quality & Restoring Narragansett Bay.....\$4.0 million

These funds will be used to protect clean water, restore habitats and healthy fisheries.

- \$2.8 M to protect our water supplies, ponds, rivers, streams and Bay from polluted stormwater.
- \$1.2 M to restore habitat and establish a fish passage on the Blackstone River.



REASONS TO VOTE **yes** 6 ON QUESTION

- Permanently protecting farmland means we will always have fresh and safe locally grown food. These funds will help strengthen Rhode Island's agriculture economy that produces over \$170 million in annual sales. The state's agriculture, landscaping and nursery related businesses support over 12,000 jobs.
- State bond funds invested in land conservation really are an investment! The value of protected farmland, state and municipal parks and beaches increases over time.

→ Funding will help municipalities develop their outdoor recreation areas. This unlocks their potential to increase the state's tourism and outdoor recreation industries and supports healthier communities. Tourism is the state's 4th largest economic engine, creating over 42,000 jobs and accounting for 9% of all state revenues.

→ Question 6 bond funding will help Rhode Island protect the iconic places and special open spaces that we value. Over 6 million people visit our state parks each year and millions more enjoy the views of our protected farms as they drive along our highways.

→ Question 6 funding protects water in our streams, rivers, lakes and bay that is essential to healthy and safe fisheries.



VOTE YES on Question 5 for \$20 million in CLEAN WATER infrastructure improvements

✓ **Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements.....\$12 million**

✓ **Drinking Water System Improvements\$8 million**

Excellent water quality in our rivers, streams and Narragansett Bay is essential for the health of our local fisheries and ensures cleaner and safer beaches. Our beaches and quality of life are the cornerstone of the state's tourism and outdoor recreation economies. For many in Rhode Island, fishing is a way of life. Commercial fishing contributes nearly 5000 jobs with local seafood sales worth more than \$150 million.