

QUALIFIED VOTERS/VOTING

VERSION

(Inclusive of others beyond the floor)

SECTION 2.

Qualified Voters Consist of the Following:

All qualified voters must be citizens of the United States.

(1) Every person of the age of majority (18 years old or older) who has a residence and home, as set forth in the Rhode Island Constitution, in the District and who shall be qualified and registered to vote with the proper authorities of the Town of Narragansett at least thirty (30) days before the Annual Meeting or a special meeting, regardless of whether they own real property; (Required);

(2) Every person of the age of majority (18 years old or older) who is an owner of residential taxable real property in the District, for at least thirty (30) days before the Annual Meeting or a special meeting;

(3) Every trustee of the age of majority (18 years old or older) of a trust that owns residential taxable real property in the District, for at least thirty days before the Annual Meeting or a special meeting.

(4) Commercial taxable real property, which includes the condominiums at the Bonnet Shores Beach Club, shall be entitled to designate one person of the age of majority (18 years old or older) to vote. This voter shall be designated and registered with the District at least thirty (30) days before the Annual Meeting or a special meeting.

Any voter who is a qualified and registered voter with the Town of Narragansett or the owner of residential taxable real property in the District shall not be allowed to vote as the designated person of a BSBC condominium unit or other commercial real property, or as a trustee of a trust.

Seasonal renters or occupiers who do not qualify to vote under sections 1, 2, 3 or 4, are not qualified voters in the District.

Rationale:

Now, the District is a quasi-municipality under the Laws of the State of Rhode Island.

(1) Is the floor as set forth in the Consent Order. (Required; right to vote).

(2) Is a provision enlarging suffrage and bringing seasonal homeowners/taxpayers into the voting franchise.

(3) Is a provision enlarging suffrage and bringing homes held in trusts/taxpayers into the voting franchise.

(4) Is a provision enlarging suffrage and reflects the comments of the BSBC speakers at meetings, as a means to correct the dilution issue under the old voting franchise.

The seasonal renters or occupiers provision reflects concerns expressed by community members that this group, who are not entitled to vote and have no property interest, do not pay taxes and do not contribute materials and like kind services, will dilute the voting power of the floor: full-time persons whose home and residence under the R.I. Constitution and the state voting laws (voting domicile), is in the District and the parent government, Narragansett.

SECTION 3.

The Assessors (or Canvassers) shall determine Qualified Voters. Verification shall be based on the tax assessment list of the District/Town of Narragansett and the voting list of the Town of Narragansett.

Rationale:

Verification of voters is simple, reliable, easily verifiable, and based upon the voting and tax records of Town of Narragansett, the parent government to Bonnet Shores. It is also cost effective, minimizing the expense to the community.

Other Voting related provisions

Annual Meeting Date: It should be held by July 15th or earlier. Otherwise, campaign signs, often placed on the grassy public areas next to our narrow roads, will be interfering with walkers, joggers and dogs, and distracting operators of vehicles during the busy summer season.

No Nominating Committee: Persons declare their intent to run for Council thirty days before the Annual Meeting.

Who Votes at Charter Amendment Meeting:

Who qualifies to vote at the meeting where Charter revisions are voted on shall be determined by the General Assembly, as the state is responsible for setting voting requirements and the Commission has members who fall into the category of non-residents, seasonal part-time resident whose voting domicile is out of state.

No need for proxy votes: mail-in ballots.