

THE CITY OF WARWICK  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

NO.....R-25-41..... DATE 4-22-25  
APPROVED [Signature].....MAYOR

**RESOLUTION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REQUESTING AMENDMENTS TO  
THE WARWICK CITY CHARTER TO ALLOW FOR ELECTRONIC NOTICE OF  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS, RAISING THE SMALL PROCUREMENT  
DOLLAR THRESHOLD BY ORDINANCE, AND ESTABLISHING MINORITY  
REPRESENTATION APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS  
VIA ORDINANCE**

**Resolved that,**

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Warwick are matters of paramount importance to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, Article XIII, § 8 of the Rhode Island Constitution allows for the legislative body of any city or town to propose amendments to that city or town's charter, which said proposed amendments shall be submitted for approval in the same manner as provided for the adoption of a charter; and

WHEREAS, Article X, Section 10-29 of the Charter of the City of Warwick provides that all amendments to the Charter be submitted to the voters of the City for approval thereof at a general or special election and said amendments shall not become effective unless a majority of the persons voting upon said question shall approve said amendment or amendments; and

WHEREAS, upon the approval of the General Assembly, the qualified electors of the City of Warwick shall have the opportunity to vote to ratify the proposed amendments at the 2026 general elections or a special election that may occur sooner; and

WHEREAS, certain provisions of the City of Warwick Charter have proven outdated in light of advancements of communications technology, failing to adjust dollar amounts for inflation, and election of an independent Mayor; and

WHEREAS, approval of electronic notification and increasing small procurement authority will enhance the efficiency of city government operations; and

WHEREAS, existing charter provisions regarding minority representation appointments to

boards and commissions have proven outdated given the existence of multiple parties as well as the election of an independent Mayor; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Warwick City Council to propose these amendments to the Warwick City Charter so Warwick voters can decide whether to adopt these amendments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Warwick City Council requests the General Assembly approve the following amendments to the Warwick City charter:

[...]

**2-10. – Notice of Special Meetings.**

Notice of a special meeting shall be served in person upon, electronically, or left at the usual place of residence of each member of the council and the mayor at least 48 hours previous to the time of such meeting. The council may meet upon shorter notice at times of emergency.

[...]

**6-12. – Small Purchases in excess of \$1,000.**

All purchases and contracts in excess of one thousand (\$1,000) dollars and not exceeding twenty-five hundred (\$2,500) dollars, or such other amounts as may be prescribed by ordinance and allowed by the state, shall be awarded by the purchasing agent to the lowest responsible bidder after such public notice and competition as may be prescribed by council ordinance. The purchasing agent shall have the right to reject any or all bids and advertise for new bids. A series of orders for the same project shall be construed to be one order or contract and the finance department shall disapprove the same as circumventing the requirements of this Charter for competitive bidding. The acceptance of any bid for a contract in excess of twenty-five hundred (\$2,500) dollars or such other amount as may be prescribed by ordinance and allowed by the state, shall be subject to the approval of the city council and shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. Alterations in any contract may be made when authorized by the council upon the recommendation of the mayor.

[...]

**10-24. - Minority representation.**

The city council shall establish via ordinance standards for minority representation appointments to city boards and commissions. ~~There shall be minority party representation on all boards and commissions. The minority party shall mean the party other than that of the mayor. The mayor shall make such minority party appointment from a list of five names submitted by the chairman of the city committee of the minority party at least five days before such appointment is to be made; provided, however, if the chairman of such city committee shall fail or refuse to submit a list as aforesaid, the~~

~~mayor shall appoint any person known by him to be a member of the political party entitled to said appointment. Unless otherwise established, all terms expire on the fifteenth day of the last month of the term, unless that day falls on a non-business day, then the term shall expire on the first business day after the fifteenth.~~

[...]

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that questions appearing on the 2026 ballot or a special election as may be scheduled sooner shall read as follows:

1. Shall the methods of notifying city council members of special meetings be expanded from service in person or at their residence to include electronic notification?

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

2. Shall the monetary thresholds for competitive bids of small purchases that may be awarded by the purchasing agent and by the city council be adjustable by ordinance as allowed by the state?

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

3. Shall the city council establish via ordinance standards for minority representation appointments to city boards and commissions?

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

The City Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Senators and Representatives from the City of Warwick, and the Chairs and Clerks of the House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing and the Senate Committee on Municipal Government & Housing.

This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.

SPONSORED BY: COUNCILMAN LADOUCEUR  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT SINAPI  
COUNCILMAN MUTO

COMMITTEE: INTERGOVERNMENTAL