

THE CITY OF WARWICK  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

NO..... DATE.....

APPROVED.....MAYOR

RESOLUTION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REQUESTING AUTHORIZATION  
OF A SPECIAL ELECTION OF THE VOTERS OF THE CITY OF WARWICK TO  
REVOKE AUTHORITY FOR FURTHER ISSUANCES OF INDEBTEDNESS  
PURSUANT TO THE \$350 MILLION AUTHORIZATION FOR THE  
CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW HIGH SCHOOLS

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, in June 2022, the City Council passed PCR-67-22, with was approved by Mayor Picozzi as R-22-59, and which sought approval of the General Assembly to enact legislation authorizing the City of Warwick to issue bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness in an amount not to exceed \$350,000,000 to finance the construction, renovation, improvement, alteration, repair, landscaping, furnishing and equipping of two new high schools and school facilities to replace Pilgrim High School and Toll Gate High School; and

WHEREAS, in June 2022, the Rhode Island General Assembly subsequently passed in concurrence 2022-H8328 and 2022-S3008, legislation authorizing the issuance of such school construction bonds, which became effective as 2022 Local Acts 50 and 53 without Governor’s signature; and

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2022, the electors of the City of Warwick voted in approval of the City of Warwick issuing the aforementioned \$350,000,000 of indebtedness for the replacement of Pilgrim High School and Toll Gate High School; and

WHEREAS, in October 2024, following changes to initially identified construction plans, it was identified that the cost to the City to build the two high schools could exceed the \$350 million borrowing authority granted by the voters by nearly \$40 million; and

WHEREAS, in January 2025, following additional revisions to construction plans, LeftField Project Management revised the budget shortfall for the two high schools construction project to be approximately \$23 million; and

1 WHEREAS, in December 2024, the School Department informed the Mayor, City Council,  
2 and State Auditor General that projected expenditures for FY 2025 were operating with an  
3 approximately \$9 million structural deficit; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, at a special meeting on January 22, 2025, the City Council approved PCR-  
6 20-25 Sub A, which was approved by Mayor Picozzi as R-25-12, and seeks the General  
7 Assembly's approval of legislation creating a Warwick Public Schools budget commission to help  
8 produce a workable deficit reduction plan; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the Warwick City Council is concerned that detrimental financial impacts  
11 may occur to the taxpayers in order to complete the two new high schools construction plans and  
12 close the School Department's operating deficits, and that the taxpayers may not receive the quality  
13 of school facilities marketed to the voters; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Warwick City Council to submit to the voters at a special  
16 election the question of whether to revoke authority for issuing any further indebtedness pursuant  
17 to the November 8, 2022 approval of \$350,000,000 for replacement of Pilgrim High School and  
18 Toll Gate High School.  
19

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Warwick City Council requests the Rhode  
21 Island General Assembly to approve legislation authorizing a special election of the voters of the  
22 City to revoke authority for additional issuances of indebtedness pursuant to the voter approved  
23 \$350,000,000 authority granted pursuant to 2022 Local Acts 50 and 53 to replace Pilgrim High  
24 School and Toll Gate High School; and  
25

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a question appearing on a special citywide election  
27 other than a primary, to be held on a date to be determined by resolution of the city council, shall  
28 be submitted in substantially the following form:  
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30 Shall the City of Warwick's authority for issuing any further indebtedness for the  
31 construction of new schools and facilities for Pilgrim High School and Toll Gate  
32 High School pursuant to 2022 Local Acts 50 & 53 as passed by the Rhode Island  
33 General Assembly be revoked?  
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35 **APPROVE** **DISAPPROVE**  
36  
37

38 The City Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Senators and  
39 Representatives from the City of Warwick.  
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41 This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.  
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44 **SPONSORED BY: COUNCILMAN LADOUCEUR**  
45 **COMMITTEE: INTERGOVERNMENTAL**