

## Michael Narducci

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**From:** Michael Narducci  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 28, 2014 11:17 AM  
**To:** Mark Welch; 'Campellone, Paul'  
**Subject:** FW: Handbook Revision with cost section and posting info  
**Attachments:** 2014 Ballot Question 3 Explanation.DOCX

I sent the below email to Tom Obrien to have him sign off on the language not including the cost. I received an email back from Lynn Urbani, see email below. Please advise as to how I should reply.

Hi Mike,

Why did they recommend removing it?

I know I will be questioned. This was raised at a few hearings and will be in the report.

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**From:** Michael Narducci  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 28, 2014 10:52 AM  
**To:** 'Thomas H. OBrien'  
**Cc:** Lynne Urbani  
**Subject:** RE: Handbook Revision with cost section and posting info

Tom,

Attached is the amended language that will appear in our voter handbook. In discussion with bond counsel and our legal counsel we made a determination to remove the cost of the Convention from the explanation. Please review the attached and let me know if it is good to go. I need to know asap as this booklet has to go to print.

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**From:** Thomas H. OBrien [<mailto:tobrien@rilin.state.ri.us>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 27, 2014 2:53 PM  
**To:** Michael Narducci  
**Cc:** Lynne Urbani  
**Subject:** Handbook Revision with cost section and posting info

Mike,

I was asked to include a section about where the report will be posted. I took the below language from the 2004 report which came in exactly the same location – immediately after the costs paragraph. With these two paragraphs – and all else the same – the handbook is ready on this question.

The parameters of a Constitutional Convention would be decided by the General Assembly and the elected delegates to the Convention. The last Constitutional Convention was held in 1986. The actual cost to the taxpayers of conducting a Convention in 2016 is unknown. However, the bi-partisan preparatory commission for the proposed Constitutional Convention that met in July and August 2014, reported that the projected cost to the taxpayers of holding a Constitutional Convention in 2016 would be approximately Two and One-half Million Dollars, (\$2.5M), after adjusting 1986 costs for inflation and in anticipation of numerous factors that could increase the cost of a convention to include the total number and location of convention meetings, the expense of hired experts, as well as the cost of a staff necessary to assist delegates in carrying out their duties.

A copy of the complete report issued by the bi-partisan preparatory commission presenting its findings may be viewed on the website of the Rhode Island General Assembly ([www.rilin.state.ri.us](http://www.rilin.state.ri.us)) or a copy of the report may be obtained from the Rhode Island State Library, State House Room 208, Providence, RI 02903.

## **EXPLANATION 3**

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### **EXPLANATION FOR QUESTION 3:**

#### **CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION**

##### **PURPOSE AND EXPLANATION: WHAT WOULD APPROVAL OF THIS QUESTION DO?**

The General Assembly has submitted the following question to the State's electors:

Shall there be a convention to amend or revise the Constitution?

A Constitutional Convention is an assembly of delegates or representatives of the people of the State for the purpose of amending or revising the Rhode Island Constitution. A Constitutional Convention, if held, could propose an entirely new Constitution for adoption or rejection by the State's electors; it could propose individual amendments to the Constitution; or it could re-write the basic document while presenting what appears to be the most controversial issues to the electors in the form of supplemental amendments, thus allowing individual decisions on each.

No amendment or revision to the Constitution agreed upon by a Constitutional Convention shall take effect until the amendments or revisions have been submitted to the electors of the State and approved by a majority of those electors voting.

In accordance with Section 2 of Article XIV of the Rhode Island Constitution, a bi-partisan preparatory commission has been created by the General Assembly to assemble information on constitutional questions for the electors of the State. The preparatory commission may make use of such sources and means of gathering information pertinent to the fulfillment of its charge as it may deem appropriate. The preparatory commission, after gathering information on particular issues that the State's electors may consider, is to report its findings to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and to the public, through the news media.

A copy of the complete report issued by the bi-partisan preparatory commission presenting its findings, including information on issues that may be considered by the Constitutional Convention and the projected costs to taxpayers of holding a Constitutional Convention in 2016, may be viewed on the website of the Rhode Island General Assembly ([www.rilin.state.ri.us](http://www.rilin.state.ri.us)) or a copy of the report may be obtained from the Rhode Island Library, State House Room 208, Providence, RI 02903.

If a majority of the State's electors vote to hold a Constitutional Convention, then it will be the responsibility of the 2015 General Assembly to enact legislation determining the method of election of delegates, setting forth an election schedule, and appropriating funds for the convention to function. The number of delegates shall be equal to the number of members of the House of Representatives and shall be apportioned in the same manner as the members of the House of Representatives. The parameters of a Constitutional Convention would be decided by the General Assembly and the elected delegates to the Convention. The last Constitutional Convention was held in 1986.

This question has been proposed by the General Assembly of the State pursuant to Section 2 of Article XIV of the Rhode Island Constitution, which gives the General Assembly the right to submit to the electors at any election the question, "Shall there be a convention to amend or revise the Constitution?" If the General Assembly fails to submit the question to the electors of the State during any ten year period, then the Secretary of State shall submit it at the next general election following such period.

A vote to "Approve" means you would like to see a Constitutional Convention called to amend or revise the Constitution.

A vote to "Reject" means that you are opposed to a Constitutional Convention called to amend or revise the Constitution at this time.

#### **HOW MUCH MONEY WILL BE BORROWED?**

The referendum would not authorize any borrowing.

## Michael Narducci

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**From:** Lynne Urbani [LUrbani@rilin.state.ri.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 28, 2014 10:57 AM  
**To:** Michael Narducci  
**Cc:** Thomas H. OBrien; tob@obrienlawri.com  
**Subject:** Cost Language

Hi Mike,

Why did they recommend removing it?

I know I will be questioned. This was raised at a few hearings and will be in the report.



**Lynne A. Urbani**  
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**Office of the Speaker of the House**  
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