

To the Voters of the Town of Newington

Two referendum questions will appear on the November 5, 2024 Presidential Election ballot. Question 1, an amendment to the State Constitution to allow the General Assembly to revise the Absentee Ballot statutes, and Question 2, a local referendum question to ask the voters of Newington if a resolution appropriating \$11,637,890 and authorizing the issuance of bonds to finance certain Town Pools projects at Mill Pond and Churchill Parks. This brochure will only inform on the pool question.

This brochure intends to inform the voters of the issues involving this project.

All **Early Voting** will be held at the Newington Town Hall, 200 Garfield Street, West Entrance, Council Chambers, as follows:

- October 21-28, 2024.....10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- October 29, 20248:00 AM – 8:00 PM
- October 30, 202410:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- October 31, 20248:00 AM – 8:00 PM
- November 1-3, 2024.....10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

The polls will be open on **Election Day** from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., voting will take place at the locations below.

<u>Voting District</u>	<u>Location of Polling Place</u>
District 1	Mortensen Community Center (Town Hall), 200 Garfield Street
District 2	Ruth L. Chaffee School, 160 Superior Avenue
District 3	Anna M. Reynolds School, 85 Reservoir Road
District 4	Elizabeth Green School, 30 Thomas Street (enter from Roseleah Ave off Connecticut Ave, Rear of school)
District 5	John Paterson School, 120 Church Street
District 6	John Wallace Middle School, 71 Halleran Drive
District 7	Martin Kellogg Middle School, 155 Harding Avenue (enter from Tom Lin Rd off Fisk Dr, rear of school)

Absentee Ballots are available from the Town Clerk for voters who meet the state requirements. Please visit our website's Town Clerk's Department page for more information.

The resolution to be voted on by the voters (Question 2) can be found on the Town’s website at www.newingtonct.gov.



Information for Newington voters about...

REFERENDUM QUESTIONS ON THE

BALLOT

NOVEMBER 5, 2024

Votes on the Questions	YES	NO	YES	NO
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	1. Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to allow each voter to vote by absentee ballot?		2. Shall the Town of Newington appropriate \$11,637,890 for certain recreational improvements at Mill Pond Park and Churchill Park and authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and notes in the same amount to finance said appropriation?	

This Explanatory Text was prepared at the direction of the Town Council, to inform the Newington voters concerning referendum questions which will appear on the ballot at the November 5, 2024 Presidential Election.

Prepared by James E. Krupinski, Town Clerk, Approved by Matthew Ritter, Town Attorney

Q. What does a “Yes” vote mean? What does a “No” vote mean?
A. If a majority of the voters voting on this question vote "Yes" (in favor of), an appropriation of \$11,637,890 will be authorized, and the Town will be authorized to borrow up to that amount for the proposed recreational improvements at Mill Pond Park and Churchill Park. Mill Pond Park would see a replaced pool & bath house and other improvements. Churchill Park would see the installation of a splash pad and various other improvements.
If a majority of the voters voting on this question vote “No” (against), the appropriation and issuance of bonds will be rejected. The existing conditions at each park would remain the same.

Q. Who was responsible for planning the project?
A. The Mill Pond Park Pool Project Building Committee was created on June 9, 2020 to review and recommend improvements to the Mill Pond Park Pool. The committee presented a proposed project to the Town Council in August of 2021 at an estimated cost of \$9 million. The Town Council returned the proposed project design to the committee to review and address the concerns raised during the meeting. At a March 29, 2023 meeting, the committee discussed the project and elected to table any further action until more information was available. That committee was disbanded on June 25, 2024, and the Town Pools Project Building Committee was created, utilizing the prior committee's work to bring a project to the Town Council. The Town Pools Project Building Committee presented the current project on July 23, 2024.

Q. Why are Recreational Improvements being proposed at each park location?
A. The Town opened the Mill Pond Park Pool in June 1960, and the current Churchill Pool, replacing the former flow-through pool, opened in July 1965. Each location has undergone numerous repairs over its lifespan.

Q. What are the primary improvements proposed at Mill Pond and Churchill Parks?
A. Mill Pond Park

- Construction of a new 11,105 sq. ft. 8-lane pool in Mill Pond Park, closer to Garfield Street than the existing pool, a new splash pad area, and a bathhouse facility. The new pool would include a diving board, a waterslide, and a climbing wall.
- Remove and regrade the existing 90-foot baseball field in Mill Pond Park.
- Make improvements to other sports fields.
- Add a soft play area at Mill Pond Park in the location of the exiting preschool playground.

Churchill Park

- Construct a splash pad at Churchill Park, with a shade structure and site amenities.

It is anticipated that both splash pads will operate from April through October, while the new pool at Mill Pond Park will be open on the same schedule as the current pool.

Q. How long are the pools at Mill Pond and Churchill Parks open annually?
A. The pools are usually opened on the third Saturday in June and close on the second Sunday in August, operating for eight weeks each year.

Q. Are there images showing each park's proposed site layout and improvements?
A. The existing and proposed site layout and improvements are shown below. Full-resolution images and project documents are available on the Town Pools Project Building Committee page, listed below.



Mill Pond Pool existing conditions.



Mill Pond Pool proposed design layout.

Q. What is the estimated cost of the improvements at both park locations?
A. The cost estimate for the improvements at both parks is \$11,637,890. The public may view the details of the proposed work on the Town Pools Project Building Committee document archive, located at: <https://www.newingtonct.gov/3043/Town-Pools-Project-Building-Committee>

A.	Baseball Field Removal	\$34,203
B.	Field Sports Rework.....	\$251,859
C.	Aquatics.....	\$7,504,254
C1.	Splash Pad at Churchill Park.....	\$1,074,289
D.	Soft Play Area.....	\$291,883
E1.	Demolish Old Pool (Mill)	\$209,883
N.	Soft Costs	\$1,214,363
Design & Construction Sub-Total		\$10,579,890
Owner’s Contingency (approx. 10%)		\$1,058,000
Estimated Total Cost.....		\$11,637,890