



Yes on Question 5 for R.I.'s creative economy

10/20/14

Question No. 5 on next month's ballot has clear and major economic-development effects. The \$35 million bond issue is designed to fund capital improvement for many of the state's creative-economy institutions. This is the kind of investment that puts people in the building trades to work and makes sure Rhode Island's vital arts enterprises have the physical assets to continue doing what they do best.

The ballot question also puts nine specific arts organizations to the test – Can they match the funds allocated to them with their own fundraising? It is a good question, in that it demands the groups recognize the hard choices Rhode Island's citizens have made to support them.

So, yes on Question 5. But the state's creative economy should be put on notice. There is no free lunch, nor should there be.

UMV: 419,372