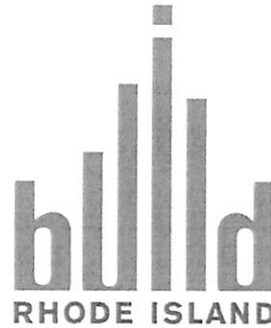


Press Release

For Immediate release:
February 26, 2018



Contact:

Gregory A. Mancini
401-553-2100
gmancini@buildri.org

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11:00 AM

February 26, 2018 - Providence, RI – Today, BuildRI, a local labor/management construction sector trade organization is releasing a new survey conducted to determine Rhode Islanders the support for a new ballpark for the Pawtucket Red Sox.

The survey found that when Rhode Island voters had the facts on the proposal, a majority of Rhode Islander voters support the new ballpark. Fifty-six percent (56%) of voters said they support the ballpark while forty-one percent (41%) oppose it. Voters were told the cost of building the new ballpark is \$83 million and that the PawSox agreed to pay \$45 million plus any construction cost overruns - with the State paying \$23 million and the City \$15 million. The State would pay for its share from existing tax collections generated by the ballpark and the ballclub. The City would pay its share from revenue from naming rights to the ballpark and property taxes from construction around the new ballpark. Since these revenues are higher than the State and City costs – the Park would pay for itself.

The survey also found that when voters were not given the facts of how the ballpark would be paid for they oppose the park. Fifty-three percent (53%) of the voters oppose it while forty percent (40%) support it.

The survey found that 71% of Rhode Island voters feel it is important for the Pawtucket Red Sox to remain in Rhode Island, while 76% of voters said that the Pawsox, the City of Pawtucket and the State of Rhode Island should all work together to keep the team in Rhode Island.

“This survey clearly indicates that Rhode Islanders support this ball park if the revenues it generates pays for its construction. With this, I believe that the legislature should approve the current proposal. This project is just the kind of project we need to anchor expanded economic development in Pawtucket. When you have a proposal from a well-respected, stable, long-standing Rhode Island organization, with revenue that will actually pay for itself, it makes good business sense to do this deal..” - James L. Carr, Jr. CEO of H. Carr & Sons, Inc. & BuildRI Chairman

“This survey demonstrates that Rhode Islanders favor the current deal on the table to keep the Pawsox in Rhode Island. At the very least, the General Assembly should give this Rhode Island institution the courtesy of a vote on this pending deal. If it passes, great; we will construct this facility and it will be the catalyst for revitalizing downtown Pawtucket, If it does not, at least we have treated a long-standing business within our state with the respect it, and other businesses deserve.” - Michael F. Sabitoni, President of the Rhode Island Building & Construction Trades Council & Vice-Chairman of BuildRI.

The organization shall discuss these results at a news conference on **Monday, February 26, 2018 at 11:00 AM at 1 Richmond Square (foyer area), Providence RI (ample free parking across the street)**

The survey was conducted by Fleming & Associates, from February 5 to 8, 2018 with a sample of 425 registered Rhode Island voters. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.75%.

FLEMING & ASSOCIATES
15 FIELDSDRIVE DRIVE CUMBERLAND, RI 334-2470

Rhode Island - February 2018

HELLO, MY NAME IS _____, I'M CALLING FROM FLEMING AND ASSOCIATES, A PUBLIC OPINION POLLING FIRM. WE ARE CONDUCTING A SHORT SURVEY HERE IN RHODE ISLAND AND I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE YOUNGEST PERSON (male/female) OF VOTING AGE WHO IS CURRENTLY AT HOME A FEW QUESTIONS. (If the youngest person at home is 85, you should still speak to that person.)

- Q.1 Before we begin, I need to know if I have reached you on a cell phone and if so you are in a safe place to talk?
Cell phone.....1-1 Cell, Not safe place...-2 (Terminate) Not a cell....-3
- Q.2 Would state or local records show that you are currently registered to vote at this address, or are you not registered to vote at this time?
Yes, registered.....2-1(Continue) No, not registered.....2 (Terminate) Not Sure.....3 (Terminate)
Record respondent's gender Male.....3-1 Female.....-2
- Q.3 Could you tell me which age group you belong to? (READ LIST)
18 to 39.....4-1 40 to 59....-2 60 or older.....-3 Refused....-4
- Q.4 As you may be aware, the City of Pawtucket is looking replace city owned McCoy stadium to build a new Ballpark in Pawtucket, with the Pawtucket Red Sox being the primary tenant. How important is it that the Red Sox farm team remains in Rhode Island? Would you say it is very important, somewhat important, not very important or not important at all?
Very important ...5-1 Somewhat Important2 Not very important ...3 Not important at all4 Not sure.....5

Overall important 71%-28%

- Q.5 Do you think that the Pawtucket Red Sox, the City of Pawtucket and the State of Rhode Island should work together to keep the Pawsox in Rhode Island?
Yes.....6-1 No.....-2 Not sure.....-3

Yes 76%

- Q.6 Currently the City owned McCoy Stadium is the home to the Pawsox through an existing public/private partnership. Would you support continuing this type of public/private partnership to keep the Pawsox in Rhode Island?
Yes.....7-1 No.....-2 Not sure.....-3

62%-19%-19%

- Q.7 Due to the condition of McCoy stadium, the Pawtucket Red Sox said they need a new stadium to remain in Rhode Island. There is a proposal that a new stadium be build with the Pawtucket Red Sox paying for more than half of the stadium and the taxpayers of Rhode Island and the City of Pawtucket paying the rest. Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose using taxpayers' money to build a new stadium for the Pawtucket Red Sox?

Strongly support ...8-1 Somewhat support2 Somewhat oppose ...3 Strongly oppose4 Not sure.....5
40%-53%

- Q.8 We know that cost is always a consideration. The cost of building the new ballpark is \$83 million and the PawSox have agreed to pay \$45 million plus any construction cost overruns- with the State paying \$23 million and the City \$15 million. The State would pay for its share from existing tax collections generated by the ballpark and the ballclub. The City would pay its share from revenue from naming rights to the ballpark and property taxes from construction around the new Ballpark. Since these revenues are higher than the State and City costs – the Park would pay for

itself. Knowing this would you - strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the new stadium?

Strongly support ...9-1 25% Somewhat support ...2 31% Somewhat oppose3 22.8% Strongly oppose4 17.6% Not sure.....5

Q.9 Right now the Pawsox bring in over \$2 million a year in revenue to the State and if the Pawsox leave, the State would lose \$2 million in tax revenue. The State bond to pay for their part of the Ballpark would cost \$1.4 million a year which leaves the State with at least \$600,000 in additional revenue each year. Should the Pawsox leave, this means the State would not only lose the team, but also lose the \$2 million a year. Knowing this would you - strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the new stadium?

Strongly support ...10-1 Somewhat support2 Somewhat oppose3 Strongly oppose4 Not sure.....5

Similar to Q8

(57%)

(36)

Now I would like to ask you a few final questions for statistical purposes only.

Q.10 Would you consider yourself a Democrat or a Republican?

Democrat..... 11-1 Republican...-2 Independent.....-3 Refused...-4

Q.11 Are you or anyone in your household a member of a labor union?

Yes..... 12-1 No.....-2 Not sure...-3

That's the end of our interview - Thank you and have a good evening.