

CLARIFYING BALLOT QUESTIONS: PORTSMOUTH MUNICIPAL ELECTION, NOV 5, 2025

Ballot Question #1	
Shall we allow the operation of social districts within the City of Portsmouth?	Yes ☐ No ☐
Ballot Question #2	
Shall we prohibit the operation of KENO games within the City of Portsmouth?	Yes ☐ No ☐
Ballot Question #3	
Shall we prohibit the operation of games of chance within the City of Portsmouth?	Yes ☐ No ☐

There are three ballot questions this year, all coming from the State Legislature. They will be on the second side of the ballot:

1) The first is about “social districts.” [Opt in]

What is a “social district”?

A clearly marked outdoor zone, with posted hours, where adults (21+) can walk around only within that zone with a drink they bought from a bar/restaurant inside or next to the zone. Drinks must stay in the zone and be tossed before you leave. ([LegiScan](#))

What’s on Portsmouth’s ballot (Nov. 4, 2025)?

Voters are being asked: “Shall we allow the operation of social districts within the City of Portsmouth?” A “Yes” lets the City set one up (boundaries, hours, rules). A “No” means no district unless approved in a future vote.

Basic guardrails (by law):

Non-glass cups, max 16 oz, labeled with the bar’s name and a district mark, plus “Drink Responsibly — Be 21.” Cities must post the map, hours, and a management/cleanup plan; signs mark entries and rules. ([LegiScan](#))

Why people propose it:

To boost foot traffic and downtown activity during set hours/events—New Hampshire legalized the option in 2025; cities choose if and how to use it. ([New Hampshire Public Radio](#))

- A YES vote means you want to keep talking about the idea, details would then be hashed out by the new council.

- A NO vote means you want to end the discussion and not have social district(s)

2) The second is about Keno in Portsmouth. [Opt out]

- A YES vote means you're against allowing Keno.
- A NO vote means you're okay with Keno.

3) The third is about “games of chance”, like poker, roulette, and blackjack, ie table games in Portsmouth. [Opt out]

- A YES vote means you're against allowing those games.
- A NO vote means you are okay with table games.

Note: The second two are worded confusingly, Keno failed narrowly in the last few elections, but the vote was to allow not to prohibit during those elections.

Credit: Councilor Andrew Bagley

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