



Mayor of Providence

Brett P. Smiley

Executive Order 2026-3

April 7, 2026

Establishing a Non-Profit Property Tax Exemption Task Force

WHEREAS, nonprofit organizations play a critical role in delivering essential services, advancing equity, and strengthening the social, economic, and cultural fabric of the City of Providence;

WHEREAS, the City seeks to foster stronger fiscal collaboration, transparency, and coordination between municipal government and the nonprofit sector;

WHEREAS, nearly 44 percent of property in the City of Providence is exempt from local property taxation due to nonprofit ownership, reflecting both the critical role of these institutions and the resulting impact on the City's fiscal capacity;

WHEREAS, nonprofit organizations and institutions face ongoing challenges related to funding, capacity, workforce development, and regulatory processes that may impact their ability to effectively serve residents;

WHEREAS, uncertainty in federal funding and national policy shifts may further strain nonprofit organizations, potentially increasing reliance on state-level tax exemptions through the Rhode Island General Assembly;

WHEREAS, tax revenue funds critical municipal services, relied upon by non-profits within the Providence community;

WHEREAS, the City seeks to proactively respond to these challenges by strengthening partnerships with the nonprofit sector, improving coordination, including around taxation and PILOT agreements, and aligning resources with Providence's priorities, including housing stability, youth opportunity, public safety, and economic mobility;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Brett P. Smiley, Mayor of the City of Providence, do hereby order:

- 1. Establishment:** There is hereby established a Nonprofit Property Tax Exemption Task Force to advise the Mayor on strengthening collaboration with nonprofit institutions, provide predictability in City taxation revenue; and maximizing community benefit.

2. **Purpose:** The Working Group shall:
 - Identify strategies to strengthen City–nonprofit partnerships and service delivery;
 - Explore opportunities to expand or enhance PILOT participation and transparency;
 - Align nonprofit engagement with City priorities, including housing, youth programming, public safety, and workforce development.

3. **Membership:** The Working Group shall be chaired by the Mayor or designee and include:
 - The Chairperson for the City Council Committee on Finance;
 - Director of Finance or designee;
 - Director of Housing and Human Services or designee;
 - Up to two (2) Representatives from the Providence General Assembly delegation;
 - Up to two (2) representatives from community foundations;
 - Up to two (2) representatives with expertise in nonprofit management or community development;

4. **Responsibilities:** The Working Group shall:
 - Convene on a regular basis;
 - Solicit input from nonprofit stakeholders and community members;
 - Review relevant data, policies, and best practices from comparable municipalities;
 - Develop and submit recommendations to the Mayor;
 - Provide a written report summarizing findings and recommendations by May 22, 2026.

The Working Group shall remain in effect for a period of six (6) weeks and, upon completion, shall submit a final report on its findings and recommendations to the Mayor and the Providence City Council.

So Ordered:


Brett P. Smiley, *Mayor*