

**Kirk McDonough**  
Chairperson

**Nicholas J. Lima**  
Registrar / Director of Elections



**Quilcia I. Moronta**  
Member

**James E. Donahue**  
Member

**CRANSTON BOARD OF CANVASSERS**  
**869 PARK AVE**  
**CRANSTON, RI 02910-2786**

Feb. 8, 2024

The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance  
82 Smith St.  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: Cranston Board of Canvassers Support for H-7278 (Cranston \$40 Million School Bond Referendum)**

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am writing on behalf of the Cranston Board of Canvassers to request prompt action of the House to act upon **H-7278**, a local act to authorize the City of Cranston to conduct a special referendum election for a \$40 million school bond. The Cranston City Council resolved on Dec. 18, 2023 to submit this legislation, and the Cranston Board of Canvassers convened on Dec. 5, 2023 to recommend a date of June 4, 2024 to hold the special referendum election, and again on Jan. 17, 2024 to approve combined polling places for that election.

On Feb. 1, 2024, the Senate passed the companion bill to H-7278, **S-2246**, and referred the Act to House Finance on Feb. 2. On Feb. 6, the Rhode Island Board of Elections voted to approve the Cranston Board of Canvassers' polling place plan for June 4, however, approval is contingent first upon final passage by the General Assembly of the enabling legislation calling for the election.

At this time, the Cranston Canvassing Authority is endeavoring to plan and prepare to conduct this special election as called for by the City Council, amidst an incredibly challenging presidential election year. Election operations will commence immediately following the April 2, 2024 Presidential Preference Primary, which is why our Board has endeavored to complete as much advance work as possible to ensure a smooth election process for the City of Cranston's 60,000 registered voters.

However, we cannot further proceed with planning for the election until such time as the General Assembly passes the enabling legislation. **Uncertainty is the enemy of good elections administration and planning**, and as such we are hopeful the House of Representatives may choose to act quickly on this local act so that the election process is not compromised by rushed planning and implementation. Our Board has no position on the merits of H-7278, but has a responsibility to ensure our election operations run as smoothly as possible in 2024.

Very truly yours,

Nicholas J. Lima  
Registrar / Director of Elections

Cc: Hon. Jacquelyn Baginski, Representative, District 17  
Hon. Jessica Marino, Cranston City Council President  
Kirk McDonough, Chairperson, Cranston Board of Canvassers