

Rhode Island Town and City Clerks' Association



**ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

Feb. 23, 2024

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

**RE: Rhode Island Town and City Clerks' Association Support for H-7447**

Dear Chairman Craven and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

As Chairperson of the Elections Committee of the Rhode Island Town and City Clerks' Association, I am writing to inform you the membership of the RITCCA voted unanimously at its quarterly meeting on Jan. 26, 2024 to **support** H-7447, which would codify protections for election workers against threats.

Recent years have seen record numbers of attacks and threats against election officials around the nation. In the City of Cranston alone, there have been two documented incidents of physical attacks against the Canvassing Authority office in recent years that each resulted in arrests by local law enforcement. Nothing is more important than protecting the very foundation of our democracy – and the hard-working civil servants who ensure democracy functions. Nationally, hundreds of senior election workers have left the field following serious threats to their lives, impossible increases in their workloads, and drastic changes in how the public views the work of these civil servants. In Rhode Island, more than one-third of senior election officials in the state have changed jobs or retired since 2020. **Election workers have a right – and a necessity – to feel safe when completing our official duties, afforded the full protections of state law,** and those who seek to threaten our democracy should face severe criminal penalties.

The RITCCA is the state's association of municipal clerks and election officials. On behalf of the Elections Committee, which has also voted unanimously to support this bill, we respectfully request the Honorable House of Representatives consider passage of this legislation that holds the widespread support of state and local election officials throughout Rhode Island.

Very truly yours,

Nicholas J. Lima  
Chairperson  
RITCCA Elections Committee  
Registrar/Director of Elections, City of Cranston Canvassing Authority

Cc: Jennifer M. West CMC, RITCCA President; Portsmouth Town Clerk  
Michael Narducci, Elections Committee Vice-Chair; Administrator, Providence BOC