

Testimony on H 5084—An Action Relating to Elections—Conduct of Election and voting Equipment and Supplies

Position: Support

Common Cause Rhode Island supports H 5084 that would create a 50-foot electioneering zone around the entrance to Election Day and early voting locations. This would create the same zone that currently exists around polling places.

Early voting has become a popular option for voters since it began in 2020. In the most recent General Election 33% of voters, or 171,848 people, voted early. They should be afforded the same protections against electioneering as voters at polling places.

We note that another way to achieve this would be to amend Title 17 to add early voting to Chapter 19, adding all the protections afforded to polling place voters to early voters. That would negate the need for H 5514 as well.