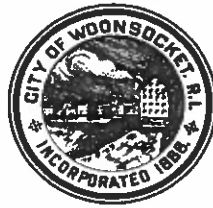


Martha J. Tetreault, Chair

Giana Savastano, Manager



Jeffrey A. Gaulin, Clerk

John P. Cunningham, Member

CITY OF WOONSOCKET
BOARD OF CANVASSERS AND REGISTRATION
169 MAIN ST P.O. BOX B
WOONSOCKET RI 02895

February 26, 2025

The Honorable Representative Evan P. Shanley
Chair, House State Government and Elections Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support for 2025 H5311 - An Act Relating to Elections – Mail Ballots

Allows the Board of Elections to tabulate mail ballots in local special elections in the same manner as in in statewide elections.

Dear Chairman Shanley and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of House Bill 5311. The Rhode Island Board of Elections is charged with tabulating mail ballots for statewide elections and special elections for state officers. They have the equipment and expertise to carry out this task efficiently and expeditiously.

Nevertheless, pursuant to RIGL 17-20-26, mail ballots for special elections are tabulated by the local boards of canvassers. The mail ballots are already received and certified by the Board of Elections, but then must be packaged and picked up by a representative of the local boards for tabulating in slower precinct scanners. This complex tabulation process is inefficient, less secure, and delays election results.

H5311 would amend RIGL 17-20-26 to give the Board of Elections the authority to maintain secure custody of the mail ballots for local special elections and count them through their high-speed tabulators in the same manner it already does for statewide elections.

I respectfully encourage you to consider passage of H5311.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Giana Savastano
Manager
Woonsocket Board of Canvassers

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee
The Honorable Representative Evan P. Shanley
Steven Sepe, Committee Clerk
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House