



State of Rhode Island

Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State

Gregg M. Amore, *Secretary of State*

March 18, 2025

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chair
House Committee on State Government and Elections

RE: H5384 - An Act Relating to Elections – Conduct of Elections and Voting Equipment and Supplies

Dear Chair Shanley,

I write this letter in support of the intent of House Bill 5384, legislation that moves the recount deadline to 9 days after the general election.

For context, in a Barrington Town Council race in 2024, mail ballots were lawfully returned within 7 days of the election but changed the unofficial results. Once the losing candidate found out he had lost, he was unable to request a recount because the deadline had already passed. This bill sets the recount deadline two days after the final day for military and overseas mail ballots to arrive, which will allow all unofficial results to be posted before candidates need to file recount requests.

This extension will not affect the State's ability to certify election results ahead of presidential elections, in which we are required to get certified documents to Washington in a timely manner.

We support this legislation as it helps prevent any issues during a recount should the military and overseas mail ballots change the outcome of an election.

Our office was happy to help facilitate communication between the sponsor and the Board of Elections about this initiative. Overall, we urge this Committee to support House Bill 5384, as this legislation will help prevent issues during a recount in an election cycle.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Arias, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, at marias@sos.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State, State of Rhode Island

Cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections
The Honorable Jennifer Boylan

State House, Room 218, Providence, RI 02903

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