



CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Renay Brooks Omisore, Chairperson

Mercedes "Betty" Bernal, Clerk

Rochelle Lee, Commissioner

March 5, 2025

The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Providence Board of Canvassers Support for H-5514 (Ballot Printing Efficiency)

Dear Chairman Shanley and Hon. Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee:

The Providence Board of Canvassers is in support of **H-5514**, an act that would allow for significant cost savings and reallocation of resources by simply modifying two words, "Mail Voter," on the printed election ballots at early voting. This bill is supported by the RI Town and City Clerks' Association, RI Board of Elections, RI League of Cities and Towns, and Secretary of State Gregg M. Amore.

Voters are often confused during early voting as to why "Mail Voter" appears on their early voting ballots, which they are casting in-person into a vote tabulator at an early voting polling place. What's worse, however, is that on Election Day, leftover ballots from early voting – ostensibly identical to those used at the polling locations – cannot be used in an emergency or when ballot stocks at the polls run low, because of the slight variation at the top of the ballot. This is simply an oversight, and a leftover, archaic ballot printing practice that predates early voting – one which results in overprinting of hundreds of thousands of excess ballots out of legal necessity.

This simple bill updates the statute to allow for greater efficiency for the Secretary of State in printing ballots. We support this as it will free up resources that cities and towns can be afforded to support our own election operations, including ensuring we have sufficient ballot stocks available for all voters on Election Day.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions on this legislation, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 401-680-5530, or via email at mnarducci@providenceri.gov. We appreciate your support.

Very truly yours,

Michael Narducci
Administrator of Elections

BOARD OF CANVASSERS

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