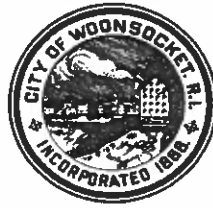


Martha J. Tetreault, *Chair*  
Giana Savastano, *Manager*



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 H5709 – An Act Relating to Elections – Mail Ballots**

Dear Chairman Shanley,

I am writing in my capacity as an election administrator asking for your support of H5709. This bill would permit any person, not just those indefinitely confined to a care institution, to be placed on the permanent mail ballot list, and as such, automatically receive a mail ballot application for all elections in which they are eligible for.

Woonsocket voters regularly ask for this service. Some are those who leave New England for an escape to the warmer weather. Others simply prefer the ease and reliability of voting from home. Either way, there are people who could benefit from this but do not currently meet the qualifications.

Critics may point out that voters already have a myriad of ways to request their ballot and do not see a need for this expansion. And while that is true to an extent, my experience is that this group of people tends to be less inclined to apply online and do not have a computer or printer at home. Their most reliable option is to call City Hall and request the application. It is not uncommon for voters to forget to call us before the mail ballot deadline twenty-one days before an election or even assume that they will automatically receive a ballot if they have voted by mail before.

Removing the restrictions on who may apply for permanent mail ballot status is responsive to the needs and desires of voters. I appreciate your consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

Giana Savastano  
Manager  
Woonsocket Board of Canvassers