



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: H5710 - An Act Relating to Elections – Primaries for Election of Delegates to National Conventions and for Presidential Preference

Dear Chair Shanley,

I write this letter in support of House Bill 5710, legislation that will amend the timeline for signature collection and for local boards to validate nomination papers and reduce the number of signatures required for delegate candidates from 150 to 50.

The Department of State supports reducing the signature totals for delegates because delegate candidates only have about five days to collect signatures; comparatively, candidates for State Representative need to collect 50 signatures during the nomination paper period of 10 days. This would provide a fair chance for delegate candidates to access the ballot.

Therefore, we support the concept of reducing the number of signatures for delegate candidates as well as the timeline proposed in this legislation, and urge this committee to support House Bill 5710.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gregg M. Amore'.

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections
Honorable Ramon Perez