

March 25, 2025

RE: Support for HB2575 and HB2576

Dear House State Government and Elections Committee:

As a service member who has taken an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, I firmly believe in the fundamental principles of democracy—fairness, representation, and the voice of the people. In the military, I have experienced firsthand the importance of working together toward a common goal, regardless of our political differences. That is why I support Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) as a system that embodies the very ideals I swore to uphold.

Throughout my service, I have worked alongside Americans from all walks of life and all political ideologies. Our strength as a nation lies in our diversity, and our democracy should reflect that. However, our current electoral system often fails to capture the full spectrum of voices in this country, particularly those who don't align with the two major political parties. Nearly half of U.S. veterans—49%—identify as politically independent or unaffiliated. For too long, independent voters have been left feeling disenfranchised, as the two-party system dominates the landscape, pushing many voices to the margins. Ranked Choice Voting can change that by giving every voter a real opportunity to express their preferences, ensuring that no voice goes unheard.

RCV creates a more inclusive and representative system by encouraging candidates to appeal to a broader base, rather than just catering to their party's most loyal supporters. RCV fosters a more civil, cooperative campaign environment, focused on issues that matter to the majority of the population. For veterans, this approach mirrors the values of teamwork and unity that are vital in the military, where we rely on each other's strengths to accomplish a common mission. RCV ensures that the winner reflects the collective will, rather than just a fragmented group.

Finally, I believe that RCV aligns with the core value of ensuring every vote counts. As a veteran, I understand the significance of sacrifice and the power of individual contributions to something larger than ourselves. Our democracy should reflect that respect by empowering every voter to cast a ballot that truly represents their views. Under traditional systems, many voters feel compelled to choose between the "lesser of two evils," fearing that a vote for a third-party candidate will be wasted. RCV eliminates that fear, allowing voters to support the candidates who truly align with their values, knowing their vote won't be wasted. This leads to higher voter engagement and satisfaction, ensuring that every voice is heard and every vote counts—something that's crucial for maintaining the integrity of our democratic process.

As someone who has worked to protect the freedoms we hold dear, I strongly believe that Ranked Choice Voting is a step toward a more just, inclusive, and truly representative democracy. It is a system that respects the diversity of thought and experience that defines our country and strengthens the very foundation of our government. I urge the State Government and Elections Committee to advance HB2575 and HB2576, as it ensures that every Rhode Islander has an equal say in shaping the future of our politics.

Thank you for your consideration,
Alexandra Curtis - U.S. Army Veteran, Cranston, RI