

Steven Sepe

From: Douglas Shepard <dshep27283@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 1:11 PM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: Ranked Choice voting

The Honorable Evan Shanley

House State Government and Elections Committee

RE: Support - H-2575 and H-2576

Dear Chairman Shanley,

My name is *Douglas Shepard* and I am a resident of *South Kingstown*. I am writing to express my strong support of H-2575 and H-2576.

- I am in support of H-2575 because ***Primaries should focus on the substantive issues at stake and help parties coalesce around consensus candidates instead of stoking division.*** Polls of voters in ranked choice elections in Virginia and Santa Fe and scholarly sentiment analyses all show that switching to RCV is associated with significant decreases in negative campaigning and personal attacks.
- Moreover, I am also in support of H-2576 because ***Using RCV in the 2028 presidential primary, which is on its own ballot, gives us an opportunity to test it out without the complications of designing ballots featuring a mix of ranked-choice elections and pick-one races. Passing the bill this year also gives us three years to prepare for our first implementation of the system!***

I hope the House State Government and Elections Committee will advance H-2575 and H-2576.

Thank you for your consideration.

Douglas Shepard

South Kingstown