

Testimony in support of H-2575 and H-2576:

Rhys Johnstone, Westerly, RI 02891

Date of Hearing: March 25, 2025

Dear Chairman Shanley,

My name is Rhys Johnstone and I am a resident of Westerly, RI 02891. I am writing to express my **strong support of H-2575 and H-2576**.

I am in **support of H-2575 and H-2576** because it will improve representation, campaign quality, and voter turnout.

Most importantly, ranked choice voting will allow voters to express their political views more accurately by being able to rank the candidates in order of preference. It will help eliminate people from needing to “vote strategically” and will instead allow them to more accurately express their viewpoints and desires.

Additionally, ranked choice voting will help eliminate the problem of wasted votes. According to FairVote Research, in the 2016 and 2020 primaries, 9,273 Rhode Islanders cast wasted votes as the candidates they voted for dropped out between the time they turned in their ballot and the day of the primary. With a ranked choice system, these voters would have had their next choices counted instead of their vote going to waste.

Lastly, some research shows that ranked choice voting systems are associated with higher levels of voter turnout. Working to increase voter turnout is incredibly important as it ensures that a higher percentage of Rhode Islander’s political views are counted during the election.

I hope the Senate Judiciary Committee will advance H-2575 and H-2576.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rhys Johnstone
Westerly, RI 02891