

Steven Sepe

From: Jon Stockdill <jon.stockdill@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 23, 2025 4:01 PM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB2575 and HB2576

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bills 2575 and 2576, which would implement ranked choice voting in Rhode Island elections. As a concerned citizen who cares deeply about the health of our democracy, I believe ranked choice voting represents a significant improvement to our electoral system.

Ranked choice voting gives voters more voice in our elections by allowing us to rank candidates in order of preference. This simple change would have profound benefits:

1. It ensures winners have broader support, as candidates must appeal to a wider range of voters to secure victory.
2. It eliminates the "spoiler effect" and the need for strategic voting, allowing voters to support their true preferred candidates without fear of "wasting" their vote.
3. It encourages more positive, issue-focused campaigns, as candidates have incentives to be voters' second and third choices.
4. It can increase participation by giving voters more meaningful choices and ensuring their votes truly count.

Several states and municipalities across the country have already successfully implemented ranked choice voting, including Maine, Alaska, and numerous cities. Their experiences show that it is both practical to implement and beneficial to democracy.

Rhode Island has the opportunity to join these forward-thinking states in modernizing our electoral system. By passing HB2575 and HB2576, you would demonstrate Rhode Island's commitment to strengthening voter choice and improving our democratic processes.

I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of these important bills.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jonathan Stockdill

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