

Steven Sepe

From: Lilia Gwaltney <lilia.c.gwaltney@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 23, 2025 3:57 PM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: Support for H-2575 and H-2576

The Honorable Evan Shanley
House State Government and Elections Committee

Dear Chairman Shanley,

My name is Lilia Gwaltney and I am a resident of Westerly, Rhode Island. I am writing to express my strong support of H-2575 and H-2576.

I am in support of these bills because I believe that ranked choice voting is the necessary electoral reform to improve our state's democratic process. In highschool, I wrote a math research paper analyzing different voting systems such as majoritarian, plurality, Copeland method, Borda count, and ranked choice voting. In my mathematical analysis, I found ranked choice voting to be the most egalitarian and representative of the voters interests. With ranked choice voting, no voters' vote is wasted if a candidate drops out of the race or does not receive the necessary threshold of votes, therefore, all voters' interests are accounted for in the final result. Passing this bill, is an opportunity to test ranked choice voting in 2028 presidential primary elections, prepare ballots, and educate/familiarize voters with the new system. Hence, it is important to pass this bill now to have three years to prepare this system's implementation. States such as Maine and Alaska which use ranked choice voting in congressional primaries and general elections respectively. The success of ranked choice voting in these states provides a framework for Rhode Island. Finally, ranked choice voting encourages greater electoral turnout and competition in campaigns expanding the diversity of political opinions breaking the bounds of the current two-party system, allowing a greater diversity of political views to be represented. Also, ranked choice voting discourages negative campaigning which can have a negative impact on electoral turnout. Constituents in Rhode Island, and across America, are increasingly disgruntled with the existing democratic electoral system feeling that their interests are not being represented. Therefore, I believe that ranked choice voting is a necessary step towards reforming, improving, and strengthening our cherished democracy for all Rhode Islanders.

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Lilia Gwaltney
Westerly, RI