



March 25th, 2025  
House Committee on State Government and Elections  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903  
RE: Support H5276

Dear Chairman Shanley and Committee Members,

Better Elections Rhode Island expresses strong support for the Ranked Choice Voting in Presidential Preference Primaries legislation (H5276). The bill would spell out rules and regulations for the presidential preference primary elections and would also establish rules for ranked choice voting tabulation and results reporting by the secretary of state.

This common-sense proposal would implement ranked choice voting ballots (RCV) for presidential primaries starting in 2028, when both parties are likely to have wide-open, highly competitive races for their nominations. Using these ballots, voters would be able to rank the candidates in order of preference. Rank Choice Voting has proven to be successful in other states by discouraging negative campaigning, increasing participation from military and overseas voters, giving voters more choices, and so much more.

With a potentially crowded primary field, there will likely be Rhode Islanders who cast their ballot early before candidates are no longer viable or decide to drop out of the race. This happened in the 2020 presidential primaries, and we have the opportunity to act now to prevent this from happening again. RCV for presidential primaries would ensure every vote counts.

By allowing voters to rank candidates in order of preference, we create stronger nominees for the general election by encouraging candidates to find common ground and appeal to a wider audience. RCV can help political parties form consensus and head into the general election on the strongest footing possible instead of needing to mend internal division.

Polls consistently show that at least 90% of voters find Ranked Choice Voting "easy" and "simple." Passing this bill now will allow the Secretary of State's office and the Board of Elections to maximize the amount of time they have to educate Rhode Islanders before the 2028 presidential primaries.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote in favor of H5276. Your leadership can make a crucial difference in strengthening our democracy by increasing voter choice and representation.

Sincerely,

Nicole O'Loughlin  
Better Elections Rhode Island