

Steven Sepe

From: tedherman1@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 12:13 PM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: In Support of H-2575 and H-2576 - The Ranked Choice Voting Bills!

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley
House State Government and Elections Committee

RE: Support - H-2575 and H-2576

Dear Chairman Shanley,

My name is Theodore R. Herman, and I am a resident of Providence, Rhode Island. **I am writing to express my strong support for bills H-2575 and H-2576 both in favor of Ranked Choice Voting in Rhode Island.**

I support H-2575, a bill that would implement ranked choice voting in our state legislative primaries, because it will encourage and incentivize desperately needed voter participation which in our current plurality-based system has been tragically low – fewer than 10%. Democracy thrives when citizens feel they have a direct opportunity to influence who governs and are engaged in the process of making those determinations by voting their true preferences – and not by being limited to so-called “lesser of evils” options that often result from over-bearing party influence.

I also support H-2576, a bill that would implement ranked choice voting in our presidential primaries starting in 2028, because I believe our current system is not delivering on its intended promise of representing the true majority will of Rhode Island’s voters. Ranked choice voting holds the promise of eradicating voter cynicism by making every vote count.

Our system today has encouraged hyper-partisan negative campaigning over consensus building, confrontation vs. collaboration, rhetoric, misinformation, and personal attacks vs. honest and forthright attempts to find common ground. It’s not healthy for the citizenry and it’s not healthy for our country. Ranked Choice Voting can help address this.

I’ve discussed ranked choice voting with people of many political persuasions. It’s easy to explain, and easy to understand the benefits for anyone who, regardless of their political persuasions, is open-minded and willing to take a moment to appreciate the upside to all of us who would like to see the true majority will of voters expressed at the ballot box.

There’s nothing sacred about our current system that honest evaluation cannot easily remedy with an improved, easily implemented, and truly democratic modification that allows for what in principle this great nation deserves – majority rule.

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

Thank you for all you do on behalf of Rhode Island.

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