



TOWN of NEW SHOREHAM  
OFFICE of the TOWN CLERK

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July 13, 2020

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.  
Chairman, RI House Committee on the Judiciary  
Via email: [rep-craven@rilegislature.gov](mailto:rep-craven@rilegislature.gov)

Re: Support for 8102 Relating to Elections – Mail Ballots

Dear Representative Craven:

I am writing as Clerk of the New Shoreham Board of Canvassers to urge your support of H8102, introduced July 10, 2010 and now before the House Committee on the Judiciary.

The bill is an improvement over H 7896, which sought to simplify the emergency balloting process. H8102 truly streamlines emergency voting by simply giving the voter the option of using time-tested technology to cast a ballot at Town Hall during the emergency balloting period. The technology offers efficiencies at the local level by allowing the use of pollpads during the application process. I believe voters will also feel more secure with the new system: if a ballot is spoiled and cannot be counted, the voting machine will reject it and the voter will have the option of casting a new ballot. And time will be saved during the tabulation period when thousands of emergency votes will be electronically transmitted.

No voters will be disenfranchised because they will have the option to use the existing emergency balloting system.

Revenue shortfalls under Covid-19 have left us struggling to do “more with less.” We are all expecting record-breaking voter turnout. Passage of the bill and the attendant streamlining of emergency voting process will help to my office operate more efficiently during this challenging time.

I respectfully request your support of this legislation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Fiona Fitzpatrick  
New Shoreham Town Clerk

Cc: Robert Rapoza, Executive Director, RI Board of Elections  
Rob Rock, Director of Elections, RI Secretary of State

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