



Town Clerk's Office

TOWN HOUSE ROAD, HOPKINTON, R. I. 02833

April 28, 2025

The Honorable Representative Marvin L. Abney
Chair, House Finance Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

VIA EMAIL: rep-abney@rilegislature.gov

Re: Request to Restore Funding for Electronic Poll Books

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to request your consideration in restoring funding requested by the Board of Elections for electronic poll books

As an election administrator, I have seen firsthand the significant strides Rhode Island has made in improving the voter check-in process at polling places through the use of electronic poll books. Using electronic poll books has dramatically reduced wait times and has streamlined operations, contributing to a more efficient and accessible voting experience for all Rhode Islanders.

It is my understanding that the current poll books must soon be replaced to maintain their security and functionality for future upcoming elections. Without funding for updated poll books, we risk reverting to the use of paper voter lists. This would not only result in longer lines and increased voter frustration, but also incur substantial printing costs. Paper voter lists are hundreds of pages long and multiple copies must be printed for each polling place. Additionally, local boards of canvassers would need to hire more poll workers to manage the manual check-in process.

The impact would extend beyond Election Day. Without electronic poll books, the time and labor required to manually enter ballot applications and update voter history in the Central Voter Registration System (CVRS) would increase significantly.

Electronic poll books are a critical component of Rhode Island's ability to conduct secure, efficient, and modern elections. I urge you to restore the funding needed to ensure this vital technology remains in place.

Thank you for your attention and thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

Marita D. Murray, CMC
Town Clerk

MDM:me

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee (via: HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov)
The Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker (via: Rep-Shekarchi@rilegislature.gov)
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Christopher O'Brien, Committee Clerk (via: HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov)