

Rhode Island Town and City Clerks' Association



February 7, 2023

Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H-5305 / School Closure; to be used as polling locations for Presidential Preference Primaries

Dear Chairman Shanley and Members of House Committee on State Government and Elections:

At their meeting held January 27, 2023 the members of the Rhode Island Town & City Clerks' Association voted **unanimously** to support the legislation that would require the closure of schools to be used as polling locations for the Presidential Preference Primary which occurs once every four years.

Current law requires the closure of schools for each statewide primary and general election, which take place every two years; however, it does not presently require the closing of schools for Presidential Preference Primary elections.

This change would allow the municipalities to utilize public schools for voting, without the concerns for safety, parking, and access while school is in session. It would also minimize voter confusion by allowing voters to cast in-person ballots at the same polling location as they would for statewide primaries and general elections.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important legislation.

Very truly yours,

Tracy A. Nelson, Chair

RITCCA Elections Committee

On behalf of the RI Town & City Clerks' Association