



CITY OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND
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February 6, 2023

Honorable House State Government & Elections Committee
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support of House Bill H5305 Closing Elementary and Secondary Schools for the
Presidential Preference Primaries

Dear Honorable members of the House State Government & Elections Committee,

As the Elections Administrator for the City of Newport, I am writing to encourage you to support passage of House Bill H5305 which would close all public elementary and secondary schools for presidential preference primaries.

In many cities and towns our most feasible and accessible locations are the public schools. Current law requires schools to be closed for each statewide primary and general election. This legislative change would close the schools, to be used for polling locations, an additional one day every four years.

Law enforcement officials agree that the safety of school children is paramount. In order to ensure their safety, the schools must be closed while used as polling locations.

The Rhode Island City and Town Clerks' Association voted unanimously to support this legislative change at their January 27, 2023 meeting.

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

Best Regards,


Tracy A. Nelson, CMC

Canvassing Clerk/Elections Administrator