



CITY OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND
Canvassing Department
City Hall - 1st Floor
43 Broadway
Newport, Rhode Island 02840
www.cityofnewport.com
Hugh Moren hmoren@cityofnewport.com (401) 845-5384

March 11, 2024

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

Re: Support of House Bill 7328

Dear Chair Shanley and Members of the House Committee on State Government & Elections,

As the Election Administrator for the City of Newport and on behalf of Chairwoman Sharon Connors and the Newport Canvassing Authority, I am writing to encourage you to **support** passage of House Bill 7328, which would include general assembly races as eligible in post-election risk-limiting audits (RLAs) conducted by the State Board of Elections.

Rhode Island is a national leader in election security, utilizing what Common Cause Rhode Island calls the "gold standard" in election audits, the risk-limiting audit. Risk-limiting audits uses statistical sampling to compare back-up paper records of votes to electronic voting machines. This method helps identify potential hacks, malfunctions or other interference in the voting process and reaffirms that the dual system of machine counting and paper ballots is working as intended. Since 2019, Rhode Island became only the second state to require RLAs after presidential primaries and general elections.

This bill would expand the scope of possible RLAs to include general assembly races for post-election review. It would continue to strengthen Rhode Island's electoral system and increase voter confidence in the fair and efficient administration of elections. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Hugh Moren
Election Administrator

Sharon Connors
Chair, Newport Canvassing Authority

CC: Sharon Connors
J. Clement "Bud" Cicilline
Donato D'Andrea
Mary Moniz