



**RHODE ISLAND LEAGUE
OF CITIES AND TOWNS**

*Distinctive Communities
Powerful Alliance*

March 18, 2025

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chair
House State Government and Elections
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: BILL NUMBER H-5084 – RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- CONDUCT OF ELECTION AND VOTING
EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIES**

Chair Shanley and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, I am writing to express our support for House Bill 5084, which would extend the 50-foot buffer zone prohibiting electioneering to include early voting locations.

Ensuring that voters can cast their ballots in a neutral, intimidation-free environment is fundamental to maintaining public confidence in our electoral process. Current law appropriately restricts politicking within 50 feet of polling places on Election Day, and it is logical and necessary to extend this safeguard to early voting sites, where more Rhode Islanders are choosing to vote.

Cities and towns across Rhode Island have worked diligently to provide accessible and secure early voting opportunities, and this legislation will help ensure that these spaces remain free from undue influence or pressure. By applying the same standards to early voting locations, House Bill 5084 promotes consistency and fairness in election administration, reinforcing the integrity of our democratic process.

The League appreciates the General Assembly's ongoing efforts to strengthen voter protection, and we respectfully urge your support for this important measure.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can provide further information or assistance.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House State Government and Elections Committee