March 5, 2025

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

RE: Providence Board of Canvassers Support for H-5084, H-5311, H-5315, H-5384 (Election Admin. Bills)

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

I am writing on behalf of the Providence Canvassing Authority to request the **support** of the House for three bills that have widespread backing from various state and local election officials due to the improvements and minor operational adjustments they make for efficient elections administration, that will benefit local election offices:

H-5084 clarifies that the longstanding 50-foot no campaigning zone at polling locations applies to early voting in addition to Election Day polls, as has already been common practices in most cities and towns since early voting began in 2020. This is critical to ensure voters can access busy early voting sites without political interference.

H-5311 is a simple bill to codify longstanding existing practice in that the state Board of Elections handles certification for mail ballots in local special elections, a complex process which local offices are not staffed, equipped, resourced, or trained to handle.

H-5384 clears up a confusing loophole in the recount request deadline process to account for receipt and tabulation of overseas/military FPCA ballots that may change a close election result, streamlining the timeline and deadlines, which is a best practice for efficient elections administration and provides clarity to candidates.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions on this legislation, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 401-680-5530, or via email at mnarducci@providenceri.gov. We appreciate your support.

Very truly yours,

Michael P. Narducci

Michael Narducci
Administrator of Elections