



**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-5311 – RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS

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 5311, which would grant local election officials the authority to count ballots in the same manner and with the same effect as state mail ballots are counted by the State Board in a statewide election. This legislation ensures that, once counted, the results are transmitted to the local board efficiently and securely.

This is good legislation for our municipalities. Providing local election officials with the ability to count ballots in a manner consistent with statewide procedures will streamline election administration, reduce processing delays, and enhance local oversight of the electoral process. This measure promotes efficiency while maintaining the highest standards of election integrity and transparency.

Cities and towns play a critical role in the administration of elections, and House Bill 5311 aligns with ongoing efforts to modernize and improve election operations at the local level. We appreciate the General Assembly's continued commitment to strengthening our electoral system, and we respectfully urge your support for this important bill.

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