

Steven Sepe

From: Tom Kaiser <tkaiser@proton.me>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 3:46 PM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: I oppose these bills

Good afternoon,
My name is Thomas Kaiser. I live in Portsmouth.

I **oppose** the following bills:

HB 5382 - unconstitutional. 16-year-olds cannot vote in RI elections per the RI State Constitution.

HB 5515- removes the 30-day residency requirement. This is the **ONLY** safeguard to ensure the registrations are RI residents. You are placing a heavy burden on local clerks to make sure people registered to vote are RI residents in 1 day. We need to have accurate and clean voter rolls before adding more questionable voter registrations. The voter rolls are grossly inflated and not accurate. There are duplicate voter registrations throughout the state. There are people who have moved out of RI who are still on the voter rolls (and these people have completed change of address forms with the USPS). There are people living out of inadequate and ineligible domiciles which need to be addressed- people live at the Keaney gym at URI, 40-year-olds living in fraternity houses, people living in commercial addresses when there is NO residence. The list goes on and on.

Same Day Voter Registration for all elections is a recipe for disaster and the exact opposite of anything resembling election integrity.

HB 5517- increasing precinct size. Elections are to be held at the smallest level of government- the precinct. Precincts are an important part of our Constitutional Republic. It is how we the people hold each accountable- knowing who is present for an election and who can be verified to vote in an election. Increasing precinct size does not fix a problem- it only provides the ongoing slippery slope of centralizing elections to an unelected body of officials at the Board of Elections. There is NO way to audit systems appropriately and efficiently when precincts are made too large. We have seen this across the country when elections have been centralized into one location. This is a bad idea- again the exact opposite of anything resembling election integrity.

HB 5709- makes permanent mail ballot lists. Mail ballots need to go back to absentee status and applying for an application on a need basis. First, there's the issue of security. Mail ballots increase the risk of fraud—ballots could be intercepted, filled out by someone else, or coerced in unsupervised settings. Unlike in-person voting, where identity checks and controlled environments are standard, mail voting relies heavily on trust in the postal system and the voter's honesty.

Second, it's about verification. In-person voting requires ID and signature checks on the spot, while mail ballots depend on matching signatures or other remote validation, which can be inconsistent or gamed.

Third, there's a logistical angle. Mail delays or lost ballots—like the 2020 USPS snafu where thousands of ballots arrived late—can disenfranchise voters or spark distrust if results shift after Election Day. This undermines the immediacy and finality of in-person tallies.

Thank you,
Mr. Thomas Kaiser

Kind Regards,

Tom Kaiser
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Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.