

Steven Sepe

From: Sara V <saravieira803@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 9:14 AM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee; Rep. Nardone, George A.
Subject: Oppose Bills

Good morning,

My name is Sara Vieira and I live in Coventry.

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. After

reviewing the RI voter rolls for 4 years- I know that there are MANY registrations that need to be addressed. 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. This bill continues to enshrine a legal issue which is infringing on civil rights. In RI, our state legislature continues to make laws that make 2 classes of voters. Each voter (mail and in person) with a different set of standards. Again, the way the laws have been framed around mail ballots need to be tightened and guardrails need to be placed before moving forward with a bill that doesn't even address the many concerns around mail ballots. Increasing 'access' does not equate integrity.

Thank you,
Mrs. Sara Vieira