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From: Alex Denisevich <adenisevich@proton.me>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 1:47 PM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: Testimony In Support of H5515

To the House Committee on Government & Elections,

I am writing in support of House Bill 5515, the Let RI Vote for Same Day Registration Resolution. We should be doing everything we can to make voting more accessible to Rhode Islanders and this bill is a good starting point.

Eligible voters should not be penalized for missing arbitrary deadlines, which is exactly what Rhode Island's current deadline of 30 days before Election Day is. Rhode Island's 30-day voter registration deadline is the longest in the nation, and is one of just three set in any state's constitution. The 30-day deadline must be removed from the Rhode Island Constitution before the General Assembly can enact pro-voter reforms like same-day registration. The resolution is the first step towards increased voting accessibility in Rhode Island. It is vital that the General Assembly acts now in order to pave the way for necessary improvements and modernizations.

Same-day voter registration works. In the 23 states (plus DC) offering same-day registration, eligible voters have the opportunity to engage in the political process on Election Day, even if they missed the chance to register to vote in the weeks or months prior. Four of the six states in New England have same-day voter registration. Some states have had same-day registration for over 50 years. They include blue states like California, purple states like Michigan, and red states like Idaho. Same-day voter registration is a mark of a modern election. Just as Rhode Island has updated other aspects of our voting system, through automatic voter registration, online voter registration, expanded access to mail ballots and early voting, we should do away with the outdated deadline system that is an artifact of a time when voter registration was an all-paper process, something that no longer exists.

Please support H5515 to ensure equal voting access for all Rhode Islanders. Thank you.

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