



TESTIMONY TO SUPPORT of H-5515 SAME DAY REGISTRATION

To: House Committee on State Government and Elections
From: Angela Lima, Policy and Advocacy Program Director, Women's Fund of RI
Date: Mar 17, 2025
RE: H-5515 SUPPORT SAME DAY REGISTRATION RESOLUTION

Women's Fund of Rhode Island strongly supports H-5515, which allows same-day voter registration options for qualified Rhode Islanders. This already exists for Presidential elections, but for all local elections, Rhode Island requires a 30-day voter registration window. This requirement makes us an outlier in New England, when VT, ME, NH, and CT allow same-day voter registration for all elections.

The right to vote is the cornerstone of representative democracy. Due to the role women play in their families and communities, we bring a unique and valuable perspective to policymaking and the political process. We need the support of our legislators to help working women, caregivers, and our vulnerable population with varying health conditions, exercise their right to vote.

21 states plus the District of Columbia currently allow voter registration with proper identification on election day. Same day voter registration has also been shown to increase voter turnout, particularly for youth and voters of color.

Same Day Voter registration can fix voter inaccuracies in real time, with eligible voters correcting any inaccuracies and updating their voter information in front of each local board of canvassers. An example of where this might happen is when a voter moves into a new election district after the registration deadline has passed. Same day registration can make having provisional ballots less necessary; saving the taxpayers monies.

Eliminating arbitrary registration deadlines helps voters and prospective voters participate in the election process. The Women's Fund of Rhode Island urges our legislators to pass this important bill into law.

The mission of the Women's Fund of Rhode Island is to invest in women and girls through advocacy, research, and strategic partnership designed to achieve gender equity through systemic change. Our [Women's Well-Being Index](#) compares how well women fare against men on topics related to health, safety, economic security, education and civic participation in every RI city/town. Our [policy briefs](#) are written in response to the data found on the Index. You can find more about our work at www.wfri.org.