



March 17, 2025

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley

House State Government and Election Committee Members

RE: Support for H-5515

Dear Chairman Shanley and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christine Stenning, Co-President of the League of Women Voters of Rhode Island and President of the League of Women Voters of Newport County. I am representing members of both Leagues who strongly support H-5515, Joint Resolution to submit to the voters the proposed Constitutional amendment to eliminate the thirty-day residency requirement.

Throughout its long history, the League has supported local and national efforts to increase voter education and access to the polls. The thirty-day voter residency requirement, the longest in the nation, unfairly restricts otherwise eligible voters from being able to vote in general elections. After Rhode Islanders vote to remove the restrictive requirement from the Constitution, our legislators can draft the necessary legislation for increased voter accessibility.

Same-day registration has worked well in many other states, including the New England states, and is supported by Secretary of State Amore, the Board of Elections, and the Rhode Island Town and City Clerks Association.

Same-day registration gives eligible voters the opportunity to be part of the political process, even if they missed registering prior to the election. The current restriction impacts young people who are apt to be moving within the state or from out of state, recently naturalized citizens, and other eligible voters who simply missed an arbitrary deadline.

Please approve the H-5515. It is time to give our voters the opportunity to eliminate the restrictive requirement from our Constitution.

Thank you.

Christine Stenning, President League of Women Voters Newport County

Co-President League of Women Voters Rhode Island

