



CITY OF CENTRAL FALLS
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March 18, 2025

Hon. Evan P. Shanley
Chair, House State Government and Elections Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support for HB 5515

Dear Chair Shanley and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today in support of House Bill 5515 introduced at the request of Secretary of State Gregg Amore by Representatives Alzate, Hull, Ajello, Cortvriend, Fogarty, Edwards, Batista, Morales, Tanzi and Carson on February 13, 2025. This bill proposes to the state's voters a constitutional amendment seeking to end one of the most restrictive voter registration periods in the country. Rhode Island is one of only ten states that requires voter registration at least 30 days in advance of the election and this restriction is set in the Rhode Island Constitution.

There are many people who are disenfranchised by Rhode Island's restrictive voter registration period including recently naturalized U.S. citizens, registered Rhode Islanders who move between cities or towns and eligible Rhode Islanders who simply missed an arbitrary deadline. I believe this issue is particularly acute in the City of Central Falls where we have many residents who frequently move in and out of our city limits due to our small geographic size and more still who have proudly followed our nation's laws and process to earn their citizenship.

As a practical matter, I am confident Rhode Island is ready for a later voter registration deadline, or even same-day voter registration, because federal law provides for same-day registration and voting for president and vice-president only and, in 2024, 9,187 people registered and voted on Election Day proving that Rhode Island has the elections infrastructure in place to support same-day voter registration.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'MR' followed by a stylized flourish.

Maria Rivera
Mayor