

Steven Sepe

From: Merrill Schmidt <merrill994@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 9:29 AM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: Support for H-5515 Same-Day Voter Registration

Good morning,

My name is Merrill Schmidt, and I live in Cranston, RI. I'm writing in support of H-5515, which would put same-day voter registration on the ballot next fall and allow Rhode Island citizens to vote to eliminate the 30-day voter registration deadline. I believe that we should make it as easy as possible to vote, and eliminating the 30-day voter registration deadline would make it much easier for Rhode Islanders to vote. This would help strengthen our representative democracy in Rhode Island and make the voting process more inclusive of young people, renters, and other communities in our state.

As a renter, it can be challenging to move and still be civically engaged during the election season, due to the strict voter registration deadline. During the last election in 2024, I faced a lot of uncertainty about voting because I moved in the fall before the general election. Fortunately, I was able to cast my ballot, but I wasn't able to vote in my new district due to a mix-up at my local board of canvassers. By the time I found out about the issue with my registration at the new address, it was too late to update my registration. I'm sure that issues like this come up frequently, and I think that eliminating the 30-day voter registration deadline would help address these concerns.

Thanks for your consideration,
Merrill Schmidt