

Dear Chair Messier, Vice Chairs Corvese and Messier, and Honorable Members of the State Government and Elections Committee:

On behalf of the leadership and the more than 3,000 supporters of Ocean State Ranked Choice Voting, I am pleased to share our organization's support for House Resolution 5515.

The common goal around which Ocean State RCV members — Rhode Islanders across the spectra of partisanship and lived experience — unite is building a stronger, more representative, more accessible democracy for everyone in our state. Same day voter registration (SDR) is a tried-and-true reform that has been empirically proven to increase turnout for Black and young voters, mitigating disparities for two groups that have long been targeted by systemic voter suppression. We cannot have a truly inclusive democracy until all voices are fairly heard, and SDR is a critical step forward in that regard.

We also believe that following the will of the voters is a core (small-d) democratic value. Good news: 61% of Rhode Islanders already support SDR! They've seen how well it's worked in 22 states and the District of Columbia, including places as different as California, Wyoming and North Carolina — and now they're ready to use it right here in Rhode Island.

For these reasons, Ocean State Ranked Choice Voting is proud to be part of the coalition supporting the Let RI Vote for Same-Day Registration campaign and strongly urges you to support HR7474. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Michael J. Garman, Newport
Ocean State Ranked Choice Voting