

Steven Sepe

From: Susan Chakmakian <susan.chakmakian@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 12:09 AM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: SUPPORT for H-5515

Dear Chairman Shanley,

My name is Susan Chakmakian and I am a resident of Cranston. I am writing to express my strong support for H-5515.

Rhode Island currently has the longest voter registration deadline in the nation (at 30 days long), which unfairly penalizes eligible voters from exercising their rights simply because they missed an arbitrary deadline. Meanwhile, 23 other states (and DC) have enacted same-day voter registration, including four New England states, thereby ensuring that any eligible voter there can participate in the political process on Election Day.

Rhode Island has implemented so many important advances to our voting system (like online voter registration, automatic voter registration, and expanded access to mail ballots and to early voting). The 30-day voter registration deadline is a relic of a bygone, entirely paper-based voter registration system. It's time to bring Rhode Island's voting system fully into the 21st century and implement same-day voter registration.

I hope the House State Government and Elections Committee will pass H-5515. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Chakmakian
38 Susan Drive
Cranston, RI 02920