

Steven Sepe

From: me my <merdakubo@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 1:21 PM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Cc: Rep. Morales, David; Sen. Bell, Samuel W.
Subject: PASS H-5515

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley
House State Government and Elections Committee

RE: Support - H-5515

Dear Chairman Shanley,

My name is Maria Monteiro and I am a resident of the city of Providence. I am writing to express my strong support of H-5515.

I am in support of H-5515 because:

- **Eligible voters should not be penalized for missing arbitrary deadlines** – which is exactly what Rhode Island's current deadline of 30 days before Election Day is. In the 23 states (plus DC) offering same-day registration, eligible voters have the opportunity to engage in the political process on Election Day, even if they missed the chance to register to vote in the weeks or months prior.
- **Rhode Island's 30-day voter registration deadline is the longest in the nation**, and is one of just three set in any state's constitution. Four of the six states in New England have same-day voter registration.
- **The 30-day deadline must be removed from the Rhode Island Constitution** before the General Assembly can enact pro-voter reforms like same-day registration. **Same-day voter registration is a mark of a modern election.** Just as Rhode Island has updated other aspects of our voting system - through automatic voter registration, online voter registration, expanded access to mail ballots and early voting - we should do away with the **outdated deadline system that is an artifact of a time when voter registration was an all-paper process**, something that no longer exists.
- **The resolution is the first step towards increased voting accessibility in Rhode Island.** It is vital that the General Assembly acts now in order to pave the way for necessary improvements and modernizations. **Rhode Island already offers same-day voter registration** - for presidential elections only, and it's popular - more than 9,000 voters used it in 2024. We don't need to build a whole new system, but rather expand on the existing one.

I hope the House State Government and Elections Committee will pass H-5515.

Thank you for your consideration.