

Martha J. Tetreault, *Chair*

Giana Savastano, *Manager*



Jeffrey A. Gaulin, *Clerk*

John P. Cunningham, *Member*

**CITY OF WOONSOCKET**  
**BOARD OF CANVASSERS AND REGISTRATION**  
169 MAIN ST P.O. BOX B  
WOONSOCKET RI 02895

February 26, 2025

The Honorable Representative Evan P. Shanley  
Chair, House State Government and Elections Committee  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: Support for 2025 H5518 – An Act Relating to Elections – Local Canvassing Authorities**

Dear Chairman Shanley,

I am writing in my capacity as an election administrator and on behalf of the Woonsocket Board of Canvassers asking for your support of H5518. This bill seeks to improve the ways that local election authorities inform their constituents. H5518 is presented on behalf of the RI Town and City Clerks Association, with the support of the RI League of Cities and Towns and the RI Board of Elections.

The Woonsocket Board of Canvassers utilizes website publications, radio appearances, social media, community events, and paid advertising to get messages out to our residents. Utilizing a variety of mediums allows us to cast a bigger net. Enacting H5518 would, in part, allow local Boards to choose where to advertise the “Last Day to Register” advertisement – either in the newspaper or on the municipality’s website.

The “Last Day to Register” newspaper ad is not the most efficient use of our budget – the deadline is uniform statewide and as such, is reliably covered in television news coverage, on state government media channels, in newspaper articles and on Board of Canvassers websites. Enacting H5518 would allow Boards to spend that same budget on early voting newspaper advertisements instead. Rhode Island municipalities have unique early voting hours depending on the operating hours of their city or town hall. And some municipalities offer weekend voting. Voters are regularly seeking out early voting information from our office and I see it as a smart investment for local Boards to direct our resources accordingly.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

Giana Savastano  
Manager  
Woonsocket Board of Canvassers