



CITY OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND
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March 14, 2025

The Honorable Members of the House State Government & Elections Committee
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support of House Bill 5709

Dear Chairman Shanley and Members of the House State Government & Elections Committee,

As the Election Administrator for the City of Newport and on behalf of Chairwoman Sharon Connors of the Newport Canvassing Authority, I am writing to encourage you to **support** passage of House Bill 5709. This bill would make it easy for voters to get on a permanent list of voters who automatically receive applications to request a mail ballot each election. This bill has the support of the State Board of Elections, the Secretary of State, the RI City and Town Clerks Association, and the RI League of Cities and Towns.

The current application requires a notarized statement of permanent incapacitation or indefinite confinement. This bill would remove the notarization requirement and the statement. Any voter would now be able to take advantage of this permanent application list with no excuse required. We hope that this bill will help increase access to the ballot and voter participation by making it easier to regularly vote by mail.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Hugh Moren
Election Administrator

Sharon Connors
Chair, Newport Canvassing Authority