



**RHODE ISLAND LEAGUE  
OF CITIES AND TOWNS**

*Distinctive Communities  
Powerful Alliance*

March 18, 2025

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chair  
House State Government and Elections  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: HOUSE BILL H-5709 – RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS**

Chair Shanley and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns (RILCT), I am writing to express our support for House Bill 5709. This act aims to modernize and streamline the existing processes for citizens to be added to the permanent mail ballot application list, and we believe it will greatly benefit our residents across all 39 cities and towns.

This bill is a significant step forward in improving accessibility for voters, particularly for individuals who are elderly, homebound, have a disability, or otherwise face challenges in accessing transportation to polling locations or early voting sites. By allowing these residents to automatically receive an application for a mail ballot without needing to call for each election, we are helping to ensure their participation in the democratic process.

Importantly, the bill maintains necessary safeguards, such as requiring voters to complete, sign, and mail back the application. This approach balances convenience and security, making it easier for those who need assistance to vote while maintaining the integrity of the process.

RILCT believes that House Bill 5709 represents thoughtful and practical legislation that will improve voter accessibility in Rhode Island and help ensure that all citizens can exercise their right to vote, regardless of their ability to physically visit a polling place. We respectfully urge your support with this important bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi  
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House State Government and Elections Committee