

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-6092 – RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- NOMINATION OF PARTY AND INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

Chair Shanley and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, I am writing to express our support for House Bill 6092, which proposes several amendments to streamline the election nomination process by establishing an online nomination paper portal for local election candidates.

The League recognizes the importance of ensuring that our local election processes are both efficient and effective. By providing municipalities with the ability to electronically submit and validate nomination papers, this legislation offers a significant improvement to current practices. Allowing local clerks to validate signatures quickly and electronically will save valuable time and reduce the need for overtime hours during what can often be a high-pressure period.

Moreover, the electronic submission system has the potential to greatly enhance the accuracy and timeliness of reviewing appeals. By reducing the number of variables in the nomination paper process, we believe this system will ease the review process and lead to a reduction in the number of appeals filed. This will result in smoother election cycles, less administrative burden on local clerks, and, ultimately, a more efficient election process for all involved.

The Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns is committed to supporting initiatives that improve the functioning of local governments, and we believe that House Bill 6092 is a vital step toward making our elections more accessible, efficient, and transparent.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House State Government and Elections Committee