To The Honorable John Shanley and Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee:

We are writing to urge you to support bills H-2575, which will enable Rhode Island voters to rank their candidate choices in the 2028 Presidential primaries, and H-2576, which will offer voters the same opportunity for state legislative primaries.

Our current "Single-Vote Plurality" method of voting in primaries is broken. Voters in some states have been forced to select only one candidate from a list of as many as 31 (!) candidates. Under our current system, a Presidential candidate in such a large pool could win with as little as 5% of the vote, yet earn all of a state's electoral votes. Worse yet, given that an average of 10% of registered voters participate in primaries, our electoral votes could be allocated based on the vote of only (5% of 10% =) 0.005 of registered voters. Our plurality system clearly does not ensure that selected candidates have the support of the majority of their constituents.

Fortunately, Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) offers Rhode Island a widely-used, proven voting system that will help us avoid this dilemma in the future. Using RCV in our primaries will ensure that the candidate who receives Rhode Island's presidential delegates or moves forward to a final legislative election has earned support from the *majority* of voters. An increasing number of states and local communities in the U.S., as well as other countries, have adopted and successfully used Ranked Choice Voting. As you can find in research posted at FairVote.org, voter polls and follow-up research indicate that RCV:
- Is easy for voters to use;
- increases voter turnout;
- reduces negative campaigning;
- eliminates the need for expensive, poorly attended run-off elections;
- frees voters to vote for their favorite candidate, without worrying about wasting their vote on "spoilers"; and
- elects leaders supported by the majority of voters.

After all, we need a President and representatives who represent *all* of us.

Most other democracies around the world have either never used or abandoned long ago the outdated Single-Vote Plurality system that we inherited as a former British colony. Among the superior systems those democracies have adopted, the most effective is Ranked Choice Voting. As detailed in the book "Making Democracy Count," there is an entire field of mathematics devoted to comparing how successful each voting system is in electing candidates who truly represent their constituents. Ranked Choice Voting emerges from that analysis as the best system; our outdated plurality system is, sadly, the worst. It is time to fix our primaries, by adopting Ranked Choice Voting.

Please vote to implement Ranked Choice Voting for our all-important 2028 Presidential primary (H-2575) and legislative primaries (H-2576). You can find more details at FairVote.org or at OSRCV.org.

Respectfully,

Scott and Monica Shuler
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