



CITY OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND
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January 13, 2026

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

Re: Support of House Bill 7007

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

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 H-7007**. Introduced on behalf of Secretary of State Gregg Amore, this bill would reauthorize the use of secure electronic submission of voted ballots for military, overseas, and disabled voters.

As a community with a naval base, a university, and an aging population, Newport has a vested interest in ensuring that our voters will be afforded the same options to exercise their right to vote in 2026 as in past elections. For the 2024 General Election, the Newport Canvassing Office processed 225 applications for military and U.S. citizens abroad. These voters, along with disabled voters, are entitled to additional protections under federal law that this legislation preserves. While this bill only effects a limited number of voters, it is important that our citizens can continue to participate in our democracy no matter what their circumstances.

This bill reauthorizes an existing program that sunset last year. Restoring it for 2026 and beyond will continue Rhode Island's practice of offering our voters secure, efficient and accessible voting options and strengthen our democratic system. Additionally, the bill also increases the required security standards for the online system used by the Secretary of State and Board of Elections to securely transmit these ballots.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Hugh Moren
Election Administrator

Sharon Connors
Chair, Newport Canvassing Authority

CC: Sharon Connors

J. Clement "Bud" Cicilline

Donato D'Andrea

Mary Moniz

Mary Ann Marin