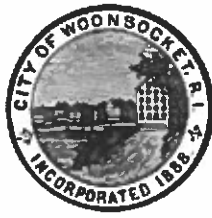


Martha J. Tetreault, *Chair*

Giana Savastano, *Manager*



Jeffrey A. Gaulin, *Clerk*

John P. Cunningham, *Member*

CITY OF WOONSOCKET
BOARD OF CANVASSERS AND REGISTRATION
169 MAIN ST P.O. BOX B
WOONSOCKET RI 02895

1/12/2026

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

Re: Support for H-7049 Entitled - "An Act Relating To Elections ~ Primary Elections"

Dear Chairman Shanley and Hon. Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee.

I am writing in my capacity as a local election administrator in support of **H-7049**, a bill that seeks to address the circumstances in which early voting is running concurrently with Primary Day. The 2026 Statewide Primary is currently slated to fall on the day after Labor Day, meaning early voting will continue onto Primary day.

My biggest concern is unnecessarily confusing my voters. To run smooth and secure elections, I take great care in my communication with voters. Voters turn to their local canvassing Boards to know where, when and how to vote. Accurate and consistent messaging keeps things clear for voters, and it also builds our credibility.

Operating early voting on the day of an election is inherently confusing – there are multiple methods of voting happening simultaneously with different **voting hours**. In September of 2023 the city of Woonsocket was one of several communities that held voting for a special Federal election. Due to the Labor Day holiday, early voting was conducted at City Hall from 8:30AM to 4:00PM on Primary day. Meanwhile, precinct-based voting was happening across the city at our twelve polling places from 7:00AM to 8:00PM. If you drove by city hall that morning, you may have seen campaigns across the street, Vote Here signs on the lawn and 15-minute voter parking signs. But when you get out of work and make your way back to city hall, it is all cleared out. Some voters came in and inquired about how to cast a ballot. Others simply left.

In an effort to provide clear and consistent messaging, I would like to see an election that succeeds a holiday to be pushed to the Wednesday.

Sincerely,

Giana Savastano, Manager of the Woonsocket Board of Canvassers