



The Honorable Evan P. Shanley
Chair
rep-shanley@rilegislature.gov
House State Government and Elections Committee
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

February 5, 2026

RE: SUPPORT FOR HB 7090 - PRIMARIES FOR ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND FOR PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE

Dear Chair Shanley,

I am respectfully writing in support of the proposed date change of the Rhode Island Presidential Primary to the First Tuesday in March, referred to as "Super Tuesday," from the current date of the Fourth Tuesday in April.

The change in date, with the exclusion of New Hampshire, will in effect create a New England Primary giving Rhode Island voters greater access to Presidential candidates. In previous primaries most Presidential candidates do not visit Rhode Island because they have previously visited the New England states for Super Tuesday, and by the end of April the Presidential primary candidate has essentially been nominated.

Importantly, the date change to the first Tuesday in March is expected to increase Rhode Island voter participation and voter registration. Super Tuesday is usually the most important date of the Presidential primary calendar. In recent years the leading candidate essentially wins the nomination on Super Tuesday.

Furthermore, our New England state partners believe that Rhode Island's participation on Super Tuesday will strengthen the New England region in choosing our Presidential candidate.

Thank you for your consideration to make Rhode Island voters an intricate part of the Presidential primary.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Beretta-Perik

Elizabeth Beretta-Perik
Chairwoman
Rhode Island Democratic Party