



CITY OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND  
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February 4, 2026

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

**Re: Support of House Bill 7090**

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

As the Election Administrator for the City of Newport and on behalf of the Newport Canvassing Authority, I am writing to encourage you to support passage of House Bill 7090. This bill would change the date of Rhode Island's Presidential Preference Primary from the fourth Tuesday in April to the first Tuesday in March, colloquially known as "Super Tuesday."

Currently, Rhode Island holds its primaries to select delegates to the national conventions and express the voters' preference for presidential nominees on the fourth Tuesday in April. In 2024, this placed Rhode Island behind 26 other states, which encompassed two-thirds of the country's total national population. As a result, by the time Rhode Islanders voted, the decision for each party's nominee was already determined by the more populous states. In 2024, we heard from numerous voters that Rhode Island's Presidential Preference Primary didn't matter because the delegate math was already baked in. Perhaps that's at least partly why turnout in April 2024 was barely over 5%, compared to over 65% in November 2024.

Our late primary poses another additional problem beyond disaffected voters and low turnout. Voters are often confused when they see candidates on their ballots who, seeing no path to the nomination, have already "suspended their campaigns." The deadline to officially withdraw from the race in Rhode Island may have already passed and ballots may have already been printed with the candidates' names. When a voter gets their ballot, there maybe be several names for candidates who have no intention of continuing in the race. This leads to voter confusions and questions to poll workers. It also makes Rhode Island elections look behind the times.

The practice of Rhode Island holding its primary election so late in the cycle effectively diminishes Rhode Islanders' voices and, in some cases, wholly eliminates their ability to have a say in a party's presidential nominee.

In bringing forward the date of the Rhode Island Presidential Preference Primary, our voters would have more of a say and impact in national candidate selection and we would join the fourteen states that already have their primaries scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 2028.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important legislation. If you have any questions on this legislation, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 401-845-5384 or via email at [hmoren@cityofnewport.com](mailto:hmoren@cityofnewport.com). We appreciate your support.

Respectfully submitted,



Hugh Moren  
Election Administrator



Sharon Connors  
Chair, Newport Canvassing Authority

CC: Sharon Connors  
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