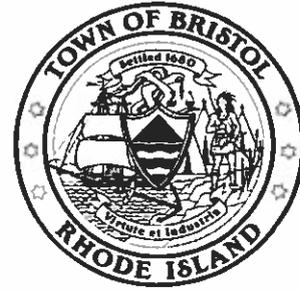


# **Town of Bristol, Rhode Island**



## **BOARD OF CANVASSERS**

*Frances C. O'Donnell, Chairman*  
*Michael Smith, Vice-chairman*  
*Marie Knapman, Secretary*

*Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk*

Date: February 17, 2026

Honorable Members of the Rhode Island General Assembly  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Concerns Regarding S2131 – Application of 50-Foot No-Campaigning Radius to Early Voting Locations

Dear Honorable Members:

At its meeting on February 6, 2026, the Bristol Board of Canvassers discussed Senate Bill S2131 concerning the application of a 50-foot no-campaigning radius to early voting locations. The Board voted to express concern and authorized the Town Clerk to draft and transmit this letter on its behalf.

In Bristol, early voting is conducted at Town Hall. Several elected officials maintain offices within the building and must continue performing their official duties during the early voting period. The Board is concerned that, if not clearly drafted, the legislation could create the perception that elected officials working within the building are engaging in prohibited activity simply by carrying out their official responsibilities within the 50-foot radius.

For example, the Town Clerk oversees and manages election operations and must be present in the building. Additionally, the Town Administrator in Bristol is an elected official whose office is located in Town Hall. In many Rhode Island municipalities, these positions are appointed rather than elected, creating differing local circumstances.

The Board respectfully requests that any legislative language clearly permit elected officials whose offices are located within an early voting facility to carry out their official duties without violating the statute, while still preserving the integrity of the no-campaigning buffer zone.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,

Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk  
On behalf of the Bristol Board of Canvassers

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