

Hello, Chairman Shanley and members of the House Committee. My name is Avery Redlich and I am a sophomore at Brown University studying Biophysics and Writing and serving on the Brown Votes Advocacy Team. I am here to testify in favor of Bill H-7303, which would move towards same-day voter registration in the great state of Rhode Island.

I have been a part of Brown Votes for two years now. I have tabled for voter education during presidential elections, mayoral elections, ward elections, and more. All of these elections were deeply significant, and citizens should be encouraged and supported in voting as long as they are able, until the day of the election.

Same-day voter registration largely supports young voters who may be first-time voters unaware of the registration process prior. From the perspective of voters on Brown's campus, a significant majority of Brown undergraduate students are entering the university at 18 years of age, able to become first-time voters. The opportunity to vote is a critical civic engagement, empowering young people throughout this state.

However, not everyone has the support in their homes to pre-plan, and for some of my peers at Brown, their first exposure to registration materials was at Brown when Brown Votes was tabling on our green. Same-day voter registration creates more opportunity for people to be exposed to the process, particularly when the election is most prevalently being talked about and shared, and opens a greater window for voting.

As a student at Brown University and Advocacy Officer of Brown Votes, I believe Bill H-7303 to be extremely important in expanding voter access and dismantling unnecessary roadblocks for all citizens in this state. I hope that you consider passing this piece of legislation to benefit Rhode Islanders. Thank you very much for your time and consideration on this matter.

