



March 19, 2026

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chair
House State Government & Elections Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION H 7303 — AMENDMENT TO THE
CONSTITUTION — OF SUFFRAGE**

Chair Shanley and Members of the House State Government & Elections Committee:

On behalf of United Way of Rhode Island, we strongly support **House Joint Resolution H 7303**, which would submit to voters a constitutional amendment removing Rhode Island's 30-day registration requirement and allowing eligible voters to be registered **by, or on, election day**.

United Way's policy and advocacy work is guided by our strategic framework: **Strong Families, Strong Nonprofits, Strong United Way**. We prioritize policies that strengthen household stability, expand access to opportunity, and ensure public systems work for everyone. Civic participation is part of that foundation—families and communities are better positioned when voting is accessible and practical.

United Way of Rhode Island also sees firsthand why accessible registration and clear voter information matter. Through our **211 Voter Information Hotline**, operated in partnership with the Rhode Island Department of State, residents can access trusted election information—including voter registration, polling locations, early voting, and mail ballot guidance—in **200+ languages**. Expanding same-day registration complements this work by reducing missed opportunities for eligible voters who encounter timing barriers under the current deadline.

Rhode Island already operates an election-day option in a limited form: unregistered voters can register and vote for **president and vice president** at designated polling places, and **more than 9,000** voters used that option in the **November 5, 2024** general election. H 7303 builds on that existing practice by extending election-day registration beyond a single race and allowing eligible voters to register **by, or on, election day** for all elections. This approach is also well established nationally, **23 states and Washington, D.C.** have implemented same-day voter registration.

United Way of Rhode Island respectfully urges your support for **H 7303**. This resolution provides Rhode Islanders the opportunity to vote on a straightforward update that expands access to the ballot and strengthens participation statewide.

Sincerely,



Elijah McLean
Manager, Government Relations & Policy
United Way of Rhode Island