



State of Rhode Island

Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State

Gregg M. Amore, *Secretary of State*

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chair  
House Committee on State Government & Elections

RE: HJR7303 - Joint Resolution to Approve and Publish and Submit to the Electors a Proposition of Amendment of the Constitution – Of Suffrage

Dear Chair Shanley,

I write this letter in support of one of the Department of State's legislative priorities, House Joint Resolution 7303, which would remove the 30-day voter registration requirement from the Rhode Island Constitution upon approval by voters.

Currently, the Rhode Island Constitution restricts voters to registering to vote at least 30 days before an election - a requirement that creates an unnecessary barrier for otherwise eligible voters. This resolution would only remove the constitutional restriction of a 30-day voter registration period if voters approve it during the General Election in 2026. The General Assembly will still determine how to update State law – to shorten the voter registration period or, if it chooses, institute same-day registration. This will allow policymakers in future legislative cycles to determine the appropriate safeguards and implementation that best fit our election processes.

For some voters, the process would be very similar to what they have already experienced, as State law permits us to allow same-day registration for President and Vice President. During the 2024 election, 9,187 people used this method to register and vote. Additionally, for implementation purposes, requiring proof of residency and photo identification can serve as safeguards to manage and facilitate same-day registration.

Passing this resolution is an important first step to removing a constitutional restriction that has made Rhode Island's voter registration deadline the earliest in the country. Addressing this barrier will improve voter engagement and open the path for Rhode Island to join the 23 states and Washington, D.C. that have some form of same-day voter registration.

Overall, I urge this Committee and the full House to support House Joint Resolution 7303, as it will enhance election administration and remove barriers to civic participation.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Arias, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, at [marias@sos.ri.gov](mailto:marias@sos.ri.gov).

Sincerely,

Gregg M. Amore  
Secretary of State

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government & Elections  
The Honorable Karen Alzate