

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** Jody Stone <thestoneseg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2026 12:27 AM  
**To:** House State Government and Elections Committee  
**Subject:** H7303 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS - Testimony OPPOSE

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Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee,

My name is Jody Baldwin Stone, and I am a resident of East Greenwich, Rhode Island.

As a concerned citizen deeply invested in the fairness and security of our democratic processes, I am here today to strongly oppose the proposed constitutional amendment that would eliminate the 30-day state and local residency requirement for voter registration, thereby permitting same-day registration on Election Day.

This change represents a significant blow to election integrity in Rhode Island. Our current system, with its 30-day advance registration period, provides essential time for election officials to verify voter eligibility, residency, and citizenship through cross-checks against databases and records. This buffer helps prevent errors, duplicates, and potential fraud by allowing proactive reviews before ballots are cast. By compressing this process into Election Day itself, we risk overwhelming our already overworked poll workers with simultaneous registration and voting duties, leading to longer lines, administrative chaos, and hasty decisions that could compromise accuracy.

Moreover, this proposal is particularly ill-advised in a state like ours, where the 2020 Census revealed a substantial overcount of our population by 5.05%—equating to roughly 55,000 residents.

This overcount highlights existing challenges in accurately tracking and documenting our population, which directly impacts the reliability of voter rolls. Introducing same-day registration without adequate verification time could exacerbate these inaccuracies, opening the door to ineligible or non-resident voting and eroding public trust in our elections. We cannot afford to lower safeguards when our systems already struggle with precise enumeration.

For the sake of maintaining secure, transparent, and trustworthy elections, I urge you to reject this amendment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.