



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

2000 Plainfield Pike, Suite A, Cranston, RI 02921
phone: 401-222-2345 | fax: 401-222-3135 | web: www.elections.ri.gov

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Representative Evan P. Shanley
Chair, House State Government and Elections Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: HJR7303 – Joint Resolution To Approve And Publish And Submit To The Electors A Proposition Of Amendment To The Constitution -- Of Suffrage

Honorable Chairman Shanley and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to share the Board's position on House Joint Resolution 7303, which is scheduled to be heard by the committee on March 19, 2026. On Jan. 6 the Board voted to support **HJR7303**. This is the 2nd consecutive year the Board has voted to support removing the voter registration deadline from the state constitution. All the New England states have a deadline closer to election day or offer same-day voter registration.

Removing the deadline from the state constitution would allow, in the future, the Board to petition the General Assembly to amend the registration deadline, if necessary, as the election landscape changes over time. Over the past 10 years, the state has invested heavily in its statewide voter registration system and electronic pollbooks at the voting locations. These investments have vastly improved the efficiency and accuracy of registering Rhode Islanders to vote and processing their check-in securely and efficiently at polling places on Election Day.

The current 30-day deadline may be unnecessary as it is a bygone of when each of the 39 Boards of Canvassers operated their own independent voter registration systems, rather than the statewide centralized system that has been in place for over 20 years. This centralized system is much more streamlined and efficient and is managed by the Secretary of State Election Division under Board regulations.

Ultimately, a change in the registration deadline would require separate passage of additional legislation if HJR7303 were to pass the General Assembly. If that proposal comes before the General Assembly in a future session, the Board would be able to provide input on an amended voter registration deadline based on the technological and administrative capabilities in place in our state at that time.



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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Miguel J. Nuñez".

Miguel J. Nuñez
Executive Director
Rhode Island Board of Elections

cc: **Representative Mary Messier, First Vice Chair**
Representative Arthur J. Corvese, Second Vice Chair
The Honorable Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Steve Sepe, Committee Clerk