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Nicholas J. Lima
Registrar / Director of Elections



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Member

CRANSTON BOARD OF CANVASSERS
869 PARK AVE
CRANSTON, RI 02910-2786

March 24, 2026

The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Cranston Board of Canvassers Support for H-7782, H-7979, and H-8282

Dear Chairman Shanley and the Hon. Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections:

I am writing on behalf of the Cranston Board of Canvassers to request your support for **H-7782, H-7979, and H-8282**. The Board of Canvassers voted unanimously to support these three bills.

H-7782, which was introduced on behalf of the state Board of Elections, correct a flaw in state law that establishes different deadlines for federal candidates as opposed to state and local candidates. Correcting this flaw is important to ensure fair and accurate recounts and consistent election administration practices.

H-7979 is legislation also introduced on behalf of the state Board of Elections that tightens up rules and procedures for the handling of mail ballots, which the Board of Canvassers believes is important to ensure election integrity. Rhode Island is one of the only states in the country, and the only state in New England, with no established laws regarding the handling and collection of voters' ballots by third parties, and this bill strikes a balance between voter access and election integrity by adding new safeguards while preserving voting rights.

H-8282, a bill introduced on behalf of the Secretary of State, would expand access to the nomination signature process by allowing for voters with disabilities or out-of-state and deployed military or overseas voters (as an example) to sign nomination papers for candidates, which under current law can only be done in-person and is inaccessible to many voters. Voters can already register, update their registration, and apply for mail ballots online securely and easily, so it makes sense to establish a similar process for signature gathering. This process would also remove significant burden, over time, from local boards of canvassers in the manual receipt and review of paper nomination forms, while preserving them as an option for candidates to still use.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions on this legislation, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 401-780-3128, or via email at nlima@cranstonri.gov. We appreciate your support.

Very truly yours,

Nicholas J. Lima
Registrar / Director of Elections

Cc: Kirk McDonough, Chairperson, Cranston Board of Canvassers