



State of Rhode Island

Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State

Gregg M. Amore, Secretary of State

March 26, 2026

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

RE: H7782 - An Act Relating to Elections – Conduct of Elections and Voting Equipment and Supplies

Dear Chair Shanley,

I write this letter in support of House Bill 7782, legislation that aligns the recount period for state and federal candidates with that of local candidates.

For context, in a Barrington Town Council race in 2024, there was a prevailing candidate based on the unofficial results on Election Day; however, after tabulation of the military and overseas ballots lawfully returned within seven days of the election, the unofficial results changed. Therefore, the prevailing candidate became the losing candidate and was unable to request a recount because the deadline had already passed. Last session, the General Assembly passed legislation addressing this issue; however, it applied only to local candidates, not state or federal candidates.

Therefore, this bill sets the recount deadline for state and federal candidates to two days after the final day for military and overseas mail ballots to arrive, allowing all unofficial results to be posted before candidates must file recount requests. This extension will not affect the State's ability to certify election results ahead of presidential elections, in which we are required to get certified documents to Washington in a timely manner.

We support this legislation as it will help prevent any issues during a recount for state and federal candidates, should the military and overseas mail ballots change the outcome of an election

Overall, we urge this Committee and the full House to support House Bill 7782, as this legislation is similar in intent to last year's legislation passed by the General Assembly, which will enhance and align our election laws and help prevent issues during a recount in an election cycle.

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.

Sincerely,

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

Cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections
The Honorable Jennifer Boylan

State House, Room 218, Providence, RI 02903

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