



CITY OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND
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March 24, 2026

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

Re: Support of House Bill 7782

Dear Chairman Shanley and Members of the House Committee on State Government & Elections,

As the Election Administrator for the City of Newport and on behalf of the Newport Canvassing Authority, I am writing to encourage you to **support passage of House Bill 7782**. Introduced on behalf of the State Board of Elections, this bill would move the deadline for state and federal recount requests from seven (7) days to nine (9) days after the election. This bill has the support of the RI Town & City Clerks Association and the Secretary of State.

By moving this deadline for state and federal candidates, we would effectively align all the deadlines with the new local recount request deadline passed last year. This was changed to nine days after the election to allow for the transmission and counting of ballots for military and U.S. citizens to take place before a recount request needed to be filed. Under state law, these voters have seven days post-election for their ballots to be received and counted.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important, common-sense legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Hugh Moren
Election Administrator

Sharon Connors
Chair, Newport Canvassing Authority

CC: Sharon Connors
J. Clement "Bud" Cicilline
Donato D'Andrea
Mary Moniz
Mary Ann Marin