



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 26, 2026

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

RE: H7782 An Act Relating To Elections -- Conduct Of Election And Voting Equipment, And Supplies

Honorable Chairman Shanley and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to share the Board's position on House Bill 7782, which is scheduled to be heard by the committee on March 26, 2026. On Jan. 13th the Board voted to submit this proposal to the General Assembly.

The proposal extends the deadline for candidates to request a recount of votes from seven (7) days to nine (9) days for *state* offices. Last year, the General Assembly passed legislation extending the deadline from seven (7) days to nine (9) to days request a recount for *local* offices. This proposal would set both deadlines in parity.

The purpose behind both last year's legislation and H7782 this year is because military/overseas ballots are eligible to be received by the Board of Elections by 4pm on the seventh (7th) day following the election. Additionally, voters have until the seventh (7th) day following the election to cure a deficiency in their ballot, such as a voter failing to sign the mail ballot envelope.

Extending the deadline allows candidates additional time to make an informed decision about whether to request a recount after all ballots have been counted, such as whether they are the winning or losing candidate, and whether they are within the necessary percentage of votes cast to request a recount. Please contact me if you have any additional questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Miguel J. Nuñez
Executive Director
Rhode Island Board of Elections



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

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