



CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Renay Brooks Omisore, Chairperson | Rochelle Lee, Clerk of the Board | David H. Leach, Commissioner

March 23, 2026

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

RE: Providence Board of Canvassers Opposition to H-7788 and H-7981 (Rank Choice Voting)

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

The Providence Board of Canvassers voted unanimously to oppose **H-7788 and H-7981**, acts that have to do with rank choice voting.

The Providence Board of Canvassers feels that not only is ranked choice voting too complicated, but it also disenfranchises voters, because ballots that do not include the two ultimate finalists are cast aside to manufacture a faux majority for the winner. But it is only a majority of the voters remaining in the final round, not a majority of all of the voters who actually cast votes in the elections.

In regard to H-7981 the Board feels that the state is a top-down system. Passage of this would call for municipalities to hold their own elections. The ESS system currently used in RI cannot support ranked choice voting which means the state would have to contract a third-party vendor which to our knowledge has not been certified to generate the results. We see this as a huge security issue and will cast doubt over the election process.

If you have any questions regarding this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 401-680-5530, or via email at mnarducci@providenceri.gov. We appreciate your consideration and support for this legislation.

Michael P. Narducci

Very truly yours,
Michael P. Narducci
Administrator of Elections

BOARD OF CANVASSERS

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