

Name: Michael Maieli

Email: mmaieli@gmail.com

Residency: East Greenwich

Testimony on behalf of: House Bill No. 7788: AN ACT RELATING TO ELECTIONS -- PRIMARIES FOR ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND FOR PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE (Establishes the Ranked Choice Voting for Rhode Island Presidential Primaries and provides for new sections on ranked choice voting tabulation and results reporting.)

Why I support this bill:

Hello,

My name is Mike Maieli and I am a resident of East Greenwich, RI. I am writing to voice my strong support for Ranked Choice Voting.

I've felt the frustration of voting in two crowded congressional primaries. The frustration wasn't the number of candidates. Those races brought strong debate, good ideas, and community engagement. The frustration was the voting system. Candidates with similar platforms split votes, which can lead to outcomes that do not reflect what most voters actually wanted.

It forces voters to play a game. Instead of simply voting for the people and issues they believe in, they feel pressure to vote strategically or hope other candidates drop out.

That is why I support these bills. Instead of feeling stuck voting for someone who has the best chance to win, Ranked Choice Voting lets people vote for candidates they genuinely support and feel excited about, without worrying about spoilers.

It also keeps candidates in the race, engaging with voters and debating the issues, instead of being forced out early or being seen as a spoiler.

In something like the 2028 presidential primary, where we should expect and welcome a large and diverse field, that should be a strength of our democracy, not a weakness of our voting system.

These bills are a nonpartisan improvement that helps ensure election outcomes better reflect what voters actually want. I respectfully urge you to support these bills.

Thank you for your time.