



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 31, 2026

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

RE: H7977 – An Act Relating To Elections – Ballot Question Advocacy and Reporting

Honorable Chairman Shanley and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to share the Board's Legislative Committee's position on House bill 7977, which is scheduled to be heard by the committee on March 31, 2026. This act would impose strict identity disclosure requirements for those who incur expenditures for the production of ballot advocacy communications and political advertisements.

On March 17, 2026, the Board's Legislative Committee voted to support this bill, pending changes recommended by Campaign Finance after review by the Board's legal counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard E. Thornton

Director of Campaign Finance

Rhode Island Board of Elections

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