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Testimony in OPPOSITION to H-7380: Prohibits the use of ranked choice voting in all local, state and federal public office elections.

Why I OPPOSE this bill:

My name is Abigael McGuire and I'm a Rhode Island resident based in Providence. I've lived around the country and was lucky enough to obtain first hand experience as a voter using rank choice during my time in Maine. I am a STRONG supporter of Rank Choice Voting.

I found Rank Choice Voting to be crucial in primary elections where many candidates are vying for a party ticket. While my own first choice for presidential candidate did NOT receive a majority, my second choice ended up winning the primary because my (and many others') second vote went to them. This was only one of many instances during my time in Maine where I felt like my vote truly mattered thanks to RCV.

Too often candidates win primary elections WITHOUT a majority vote. Rank choice voting makes it possible to declare a CLEAR winner in races with a wide pool of candidates. The last Providence Democratic Mayoral Primary could have turned out very differently. Mayor Smiley only received 41.8% of the vote. The 20% who voted for the last place candidate, Nirva LaFortune, would have had their second choices taken into account and perhaps it would have still been Mayor Smiley's to win, but Gonzalo Cuervo still had a chance to eek him out with a solid 36.6% of the vote. With Rank Choice Voting, we wouldn't have ignored the choices made by 58.9% of the voters.

I SUPPORT H-7788, H-7981, S-2590, and S-2951,

and OPPOSE H-7380