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Residency: East Providence

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 Errol Danehy, East Providence resident, and I am writing to oppose House Bill 7380, which would ban ranked choice voting (RCV).

Banning RCV before we have a chance to try it would unfairly curtail voters' right to direct the democratic process. Salve Regina's Pell Center poll showed 63% of RI voters were unhappy with our democracy, with 38% (the largest group) calling it "not at all" healthy.

(<https://salve.edu/documents/pell-centervov-june-2025-survey-report>) It is clear that voters are seeking a change, and this legislation would close off one of the routes to creating that change.

RCV would offer an improvement to our democracy by allowing more candidates to have a realistic path to election, therefore bringing more voters to the table. When people see a candidate they like, they are more likely to vote. It's that simple. According to FairVote.org, voters as far back as 2004 have overwhelmingly supported RCV after trying it. (<https://fairvote.org/report/exit-surveys-report-2025/>) Polls show that voters want to improve our democracy, and ranked choice voting is a popular way to do so. Banning it would be a mistake.

Thank you,

Errol Danehy