

Testimony of Harry Roth

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Rhode Island House Bill 7380

Honorable Representatives,

Thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony.

Over the past four years, 19 states have banned ranked-choice voting (RCV) to protect voters from weeks-long delays, longer lines at the polls, and ballot elimination. In 2024, voters in Oregon, Arizona, Idaho, Colorado, Montana, and Nevada rejected ranked-choice voting ballot measures.

In states where it's been implemented, such as Maine and Alaska, delays and voter confusion have become the standard. Alaska's repeal ballot measure came within 743 votes of succeeding, and another repeal measure will appear before voters on the November 2026 ballot.

Voters in Maine have faced weeks of delays and technological issues since adopting RCV, while 141,000 New York City residents had their ballots eliminated during the 2021 NYC Democratic mayoral primary. Voters in Alameda County, CA, experienced a glitch that resulted in the wrong winner being announced.

Wherever ranked-choice voting is used, voters are left confused and disenfranchised. Elections become more complicated, and none of the supposed benefits, like more civil politics or increased voter participation, have materialized.

The Rhode Island House of Representatives should pass House Bill 7380 and help make Rhode Island the 20th state to ban ranked-choice voting.

Thank you again for your time.