

Steven Sepe

From: Sara V <saravieira803@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 11:14 AM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: Support HB 7380

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Sara Vieira , a resident of Coventry, and a strong advocate for fair, transparent, and easy-to-understand elections. I urge you to pass House Bill 7380, which prohibits the use of ranked-choice voting (RCV) for all local, state, and federal public office elections in our state.

Rhode Island’s current voting system is straightforward: voters select one candidate per office on a simple ballot. This ensures every vote is counted directly, results are clear on election night, and every citizen can easily participate without confusion. Ranked-choice voting complicates this process by allowing voters to rank multiple candidates, with votes transferred and redistributed in multiple rounds until one candidate reaches a majority. This system introduces unnecessary complexity that can undermine voter confidence.

Key reasons to support HB 7380 include:

- **Simplicity and Accessibility:** Many voters—especially seniors, those with lower literacy, non-native English speakers, or busy families—find ranking candidates confusing. A complex ballot risks more spoiled or exhausted ballots, where votes are discarded if preferences are not fully ranked.
- **Transparency and Trust:** Traditional elections produce clear results the same night. Ranked-choice voting often requires days or weeks of tabulation and “instant runoff” calculations that most voters do not fully understand. This opacity can fuel suspicion and reduce faith in election outcomes.
- **Equal Voting Power:** In RCV, some votes are transferred and “counted” multiple times in later rounds, while others are eliminated early. This distorts the principle of one person, one vote and can lead to outcomes where the winner is not the candidate with the most first-choice support.
- **Avoiding Unintended Consequences:** Rhode Island has not widely adopted RCV, and there is no compelling reason to experiment with it. Other states and cities using RCV have faced lawsuits, tabulation delays, higher costs for new voting equipment and voter education, and voter confusion. We should learn from those experiences rather than import the problems.

House Bill 7380 simply maintains the proven, understandable system we already have. It protects the integrity and accessibility of our elections without banning any candidate or party—it simply ensures ballots remain clear, and every lawful vote is counted directly and equally.

I respectfully ask the Committee to give HB 7380 a favorable report and advance it to the full House. Rhode Island voters deserve elections that are simple, transparent, and worthy of full public trust.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Sara Vieira

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