

Dear Chairman and Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee,

I am writing in opposition to Bill H-7380 which would ban ranked choice voting in RI. Any legislation that prevents citizens from improving Rhode Island's elections system is worse than ill-considered - it is destructive to our democracy.

One way of viewing the history of politics is to see it as a struggle between those who hold wealth and power versus the people they seek to control. Ranked Choice Voting has proven to empower the majority of citizens, rather than the extremist minorities who too often win plurality elections when supported by dark money PACs. As detailed in the Rolling Stone article (<https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-features/maga-war-democracy-ranked-choice-voting-1234978456/>) about the dark money national campaign to suppress RCV, we are once again in an era when wealthy extremists are attempting to maintain their grip on Power.

Why do far-right billionaires -- such as Leonard Leo and Cleta Mitchell -- and the organizations they support -- such as the Heritage Foundation and ALEC -- fear RCV? Because when the people determine who they elect by indicating their preference, and elections are positive rather than dominated by PAC-funded negative campaign ads, the power of those extremists to influence public policy is thwarted.

The facts are clear: there is no legitimate basis to dispute the superiority of Ranked Choice Voting over our archaic and divisive plurality system, which most democracies either never used or abandoned long ago. Fortunately, Rhode Island's citizens do not share the values of the dark money billionaires who would seek to undermine efforts to improve our elections.

Please send this boilerplate, anti-democratic bill back to its authors with the message that Rhode Island still believes in majority rule.

Sincerely,

Scott and Monica Shuler

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