



April 14, 2026

Rhode Island State Legislature  
House Committee on State Government and Elections  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**Letter in Opposition to H7380, Ban on Ranked Choice Voting**

Dear State Government and Election Committee Members:

I am testifying on behalf of [RepresentWomen](#) in opposition to H7380, prohibiting the use of ranked choice voting (RCV) for any local, state, or federal elections.

RepresentWomen tracks electoral outcomes for women in jurisdictions with ranked choice voting (RCV). Our overall mission is to increase gender balance in elected office and address the barriers women face in politics. **RCV is a proven strategy that enables more women to seek and win elected office. Women hold 55% of city council seats in jurisdictions with ranked choice voting – almost twice the norm in places without RCV.**

H7380 doesn't just ban RCV, it is also a threat to Rhode Island's status as a Home Rule state. Local municipalities should be able to decide what works best for themselves. It is not the place of the legislators at the Statehouse to tell cities and towns in Rhode Island how to conduct their elections. RCV is currently being used in over 50 cities, counties, and states in the United States, including New York City, Maine, and Alaska. In a report of exit polls from FairVote from June 2025, an average 84% of voters found RCV to be easy to navigate and recommended it for continued use based on their experience.

RCV may not be the right fit for every city or town. But that should be the decision of local elected officials, not state legislators. You should not take away the voters' opportunity to shape democracy where they live.



We urge you to stand with RepresentWomen in opposition to H7380. Preemptively banning ranked choice voting in Rhode Island not only chips away at the voice of the citizens, it also hinders the state's ability to increase representation of women in elected office.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Tamaya Dennard  
Programs and Partnerships Manager, RepresentWomen