



State of Rhode Island
Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State
Gregg M. Amore, Secretary of State

April 16, 2026

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chair
House Committee on State Government & Elections

RE: In support of House Bill 7451, An Act Relating to Elections – Mail Ballots

Dear Chair Shanley,

I write this letter in support of House Bill 7451, legislation that would require voters who apply by paper for a mail ballot to include the driver's license or state identification number or the last four digits of their Social Security number on the mail ballot application.

Currently, voters wishing to vote by mail can apply for a mail ballot in two ways: by using a paper mail ballot application form or by applying for a mail ballot online. On the paper form, a voter must sign their name, and their signature is then matched against a signature on file to verify their identity. To apply for a mail ballot online, a voter must access the online portal and provide their driver's license or state identification number to verify their identity.

In the 2024 general election, 55,795 voters voted by mail, of whom 66%, or 36,970, applied for a mail ballot online. This means voters had to provide their driver's license or state identification number when applying through our online portal. We are confident that the number of voters using secure online tools – to register to vote, update their voter information, and apply for a mail ballot – will continue to rise.

Adding another layer of verification on a paper mail ballot application would provide local boards of canvassers with additional information to verify a voter's identity, thereby fortifying our election processes. This is especially true when the information provided on the mail ballot application, as proposed in this legislation, is not publicly available and includes specific personal identifiers that only the applicant should know.

Therefore, we urge this Committee and the full House to support this legislation, as adding the requirement proposed in House Bill 7451 to the mail ballot application will make the process more consistent for all mail ballots, regardless of the way in which voters apply.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Arias, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, at marias@sos.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government & Elections
The Honorable Jon D. Brien

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