

Steven Sepe

From: George Hasapidis <ghasapidis@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 2:45 PM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: H8334

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Dear Chairman Shanley,

My name is George Hasapidis, and I am a resident of Foster. I am writing to express my strong support of H8334.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 and its subsequent amendments is considered the most successful civil rights legislation of the 20th century, but over time the VRA has been weakened by federal court rulings, and a hostile Department of Justice. As the federal government becomes more like a dictatorship every day, systematically eroding our rights and freedoms, it falls to the states to become a bulwark of our democracy. The Rhode Island Voting Rights Act (RIVRA) will put into state law protections similar to those provided by the Voting Rights Act, and in some instances will go beyond that landmark law, ensuring the voice of the people will not be silenced by government-sponsored discrimination. While the federal VRA may be weakened, Rhode Islanders have the chance to protect our own access to voting, and we need to do so before it's too late.

I hope the House State Government and Elections Committee will pass H8334.

Thank you for your consideration,

George Hasapidis
Foster, RI