

Representative Evan Shanley, Chair
RI House Committee on State Government and Elections
April 16, 2026

RE: Support - H-8334 Rhode Island Voting Rights Act

Dear Chair Shanley and members of the Committee,

My name is Mary Frances Cooper. I am a registered voter in Rhode Island and I live in Providence. I strongly support H-8334, which would protect voting rights for all Rhode Islanders. It would clearly support the right to vote for all groups and would impose penalties to those who interfere with elections.

As a proud member of the Providence League of Women Voters, I spend volunteer time registering new voters and advising people on their rights and obligations regarding voting. I do this because I believe whole-heartedly in our democratic process and I want it to be strong. I am so concerned with efforts that I have seen across our country, including at the federal level, to interfere with this right. I believe that Rhode Island should be a beacon for democracy nationwide. Voting, for those who are eligible, should be easy and straightforward. We should want to have everyone's voice in every election!

I urge the House Committee on State Government and Elections to pass H-8334, The Rhode Island Voting Rights Act, and bring it to the full House for a vote.

This is important.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Best regards,

Mary Frances Cooper
Providence, RI