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FAIRVOTEACTION

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Dear Members of the Non-plurality Voting and Runoff Elections Study Commission,

Following my testimony on March 22, 2023, I'm writing to provide more information on the timeline for ranked choice voting (RCV) implementation in Rhode Island.

Other jurisdictions have successfully implemented RCV on a wide variety of timelines, some as quickly as a few months. I believe Rhode Island is particularly well-positioned for a quick and smooth implementation due to several factors.

First, Rhode Island's existing equipment is RCV-compatible. Rhode Island uniformly uses ES&S scanners with DS200, a RCV-compatible tabulator. Unlike other cities or states that may need to consider voting technology upgrades, Rhode Island's machines are already capable of printing and scanning ranked ballots and conducting a ranked choice tabulation.

Second, Rhode Island already has data transmission practices in place that will allow for quick tabulation of statewide results. Currently, local election administrators transmit election results securely to a central location. Workers in these offices would use the same process for RCV results, simply needing basic training on which data needs to be transmitted. The necessary data is called a "cast vote record," and it is produced by the ES&S DS200 software. This will allow results from all precincts to be tabulated centrally for one statewide result.

To summarize, I believe Rhode Island's existing technology and data transmission practices would make for a seamless transition to RCV, and it could be accomplished successfully in a matter of months, not years. **Rhode Island could safely implement RCV for 2024 presidential primaries as specified in H5649.**

Please reach out if you have any other questions about RCV implementation.

Thank you,

Deb Otis

Deb Otis
Director of Research and Policy
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