

Hon. Christopher G. Paplauskas  
Council President



Randall A. Jackvony  
Chairperson

Gary J. Vierra  
Member

Quilcia I. Moronta  
Member

*Cranston Redistricting Commission  
City Hall  
869 Park Ave., Room 100  
Cranston, RI 02910-2786*

Sept. 23, 2021

**Re: Written Testimony in Support of Increasing the State Precinct Voter Cap**

Dear Honorable Members of the Special Commission on Reapportionment:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Cranston Redistricting Commission to request that the Special Commission on Reapportionment recommends to the General Assembly an **increase** in the 3,000-voter precinct cap currently set by R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-11-1.

The Cranston Redistricting Commission voted unanimously, 3-0, on Sept. 16, 2021 to support increasing this number, which has been in place since the 2012 state redistricting process. Since 2012, the nature of election administration has changed dramatically. An increase in the use of mail ballots has been evident since 2016, and will continue beyond the pandemic, as has been the trend nationally. The 2020 introduction of emergency “early” voting – now a permanent part of state law – has also comprehensively reduced the total number of registered voters appearing at polling places on Election Day itself.

There is no question that the current 3,000-voter precinct cap is now artificially low under these circumstances. However, with 2022 reprecincting upon us, this cap remaining as-is will result in the creation of unnecessary pocket precincts, and wasted state and local resources on redundant poll workers, supplies, logistics expenses, and voting equipment.

Support from the Special Commission on Reapportionment for an increase in the precinct voter cap will ensure the full General Assembly is aware of the essential need to increase this number, and illustrate the critical importance of doing so early in the session, prior to local boards of canvassers needing to draw precinct lines in February and March.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I am available at 401-780-3128 or [nlima@cranstonri.org](mailto:nlima@cranstonri.org) to elaborate further, or answer any questions members may have.

Very truly yours,

Nicholas J. Lima  
Registrar / Director of Elections  
On Behalf of the Cranston Redistricting Commission