



TOWN OF COVENTRY  
BOARD OF CANVASSERS  
1670 FLAT RIVER ROAD  
COVENTRY, RI 02816  
401-822-9150

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: Coventry Board of Canvassers Support for S-2130 (All write-ins posted with official results)**

Dear Chairman LaMountain and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am writing on behalf of the Coventry Board of Canvassers in strong support of **S-2130**, which makes important revisions to the write-in candidate declaration and tabulation process.

This bill is supported by **unanimous** votes of the RI Town and City Clerks' Association and the RI Board of Elections, and also by the RI League of Cities and Towns, among other organizations and local election offices. Similar attempts to reform Rhode Island's highly irregular write-in tabulation requirements and lack of declaration process have previously passed the House of Representatives four times.

**S-2130** requires all write-in votes cast by voters in every race – even if frivolous or for fictional characters – to be scanned and posted on the state Board of Elections' website as part of official election results. This way, all Rhode Islanders can view the actual write-in vote cast by every voter, in every contest. The act further requires local boards of canvassers to meet in a public meeting and adjudicate individual write-ins – in other words, determine the voter's intent – in **any** race in which the total number of write-ins cast may affect the outcome. Is it a valuable use of public time and resources for a local board to determine whether or not "Mickey Mouse" and "Mickey A. Mouse" should both be attributed to the same fictional character? In most cases, no – but we agree that said vote should still count, and still be published as part of official results. And, in cases where the total write-ins cast in a contest may affect the election outcome, the local board would, in fact, have to meet publicly and make that individual determination for *each and every* write-in vote cast.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions regarding this legislation, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 401-822-9150, or via email at [registrar@coventryri.gov](mailto:registrar@coventryri.gov).

Very truly yours,

Marcy A. Alves

Registrar/Director of Elections