



Town of Jamestown

CANVASSING AUTHORITY
Town Hall, 93 Narragansett Avenue
Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835-1199
www.jamestownri.gov

February 25, 2026

The Honorable Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

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

Dear Chairman LaMountain and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Jamestown Board of Canvassers to request the Senate Judiciary Committee's support for **S-2130**. This bill would require all write-in votes cast in every race to be scanned and posted to the Rhode Island Board of Elections website as part of the official election results. This change would ensure transparency, allowing all Rhode Islanders to view every actual write-in vote cast in an election. This legislation is unanimously supported by the Rhode Island Town and City Clerks' Association, the Rhode Island Board of Elections, and the Rhode Island Secretary of State's Office. The Jamestown Board of Canvassers recently met in a public session and voted unanimously to support this legislation.

This act further requires local boards of canvassers to meet in public sessions to adjudicate individual write-in votes in any race where the total number of write-ins could potentially affect the outcome. While the adjudication process is vital for election integrity, manually adjudicating fictitious names such as "Mickey Mouse" is a significant drain on time and resources when they have no bearing on the results.

We agree that these votes should be counted and published as part of the official results; however, they should only require manual adjudication if the total number of write-ins cast in a contest could alter the election outcome. Should the write-in total reach that threshold, local boards would meet in an advertised public meeting to make individual determinations for every write-in vote cast.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions regarding this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 401-423-9801 or via email at kford@jamestownri.net.

Very truly yours,

Keith Ford
Deputy Town Clerk / Clerk to the Board of Canvassers
Town of Jamestown

CC: Kenneth Newman, Chair, Jamestown Board of Canvassers