



February 25, 2026

The Honorable Matthew LaMountain, Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Rhode Island State House, 82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02903

**Re: In Support of SJR-2132– Resolution to Approve and Publish and Submit to the Electors a Proposition of Amendment to the Constitution – Of Suffrage (Same Day Voter Registration)**

Dear Chair LaMountain and the Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Housing Network of Rhode Island (HNRI), our members and the low- income Rhode Islanders we serve, I write in **strong support for Senate Resolution 2132** which would place a constitutional amendment on the ballot to allow the General Assembly to move Rhode Island’s voter registration deadline up to Election Day.

HNRI’s mission is to increase the supply of safe, healthy, affordable homes in thriving communities through coalition-building, policy advocacy, and strategic communications. A core initiative of this work is *Our Homes, Our Votes*, which promotes civic engagement among low- and moderate-income renters, as well as housing-insecure and unhoused Rhode Islanders. Civic engagement is a cornerstone of a thriving community. Where we live, and our housing status, is undeniably connected to our ability to fully participate in civic life. For those of us who face housing insecurity, the ability to remain an active voter is challenging.

Civic engagement is foundational to strong communities. Yet housing instability creates real barriers to voter participation. [Research](#) consistently shows that frequent moves, eviction, and homelessness disrupt voter registration and turnout. As Rhode Island works to address our housing crisis, we should also remove unnecessary barriers to civic participation so that no eligible voter is disenfranchised because of their housing status.

Same-day voter registration is a proven and practical solution. Rhode Island already has the infrastructure to implement it more fully. In the 2024 general election, more than 9,000 voters utilized same-day registration. I personally spoke with individuals who were unhoused and relied on this option to ensure their voices were heard. Expanding same-day registration to all elections would ensure those same voters can participate consistently at the state and local levels, where many decisions directly impacting housing and community stability are made.

Rhode Island has made important strides in strengthening access to the ballot. This resolution offers another evidence-based opportunity to improve our system and expand access in a way that reflects our state values.

We are grateful to Secretary Amore, to you Mr. Chairman as lead sponsor, and to the co-sponsors for your leadership. Rhode Islanders are facing a housing crisis; they should not also face preventable barriers to voting.

I respectfully urge the Committee to advance this resolution and allow the voters of Rhode Island to decide this important question.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie West".

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