

**RE: S2132, A Resolution “Related to Some Day Voter Registration FOR**

Chair LaMountain and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

I am writing **in support of S 2132**, which would allow voters to decide whether or not to remove the 30 day registration requirement from our the Rhode Island state constitution.

The current 30-day deadline to register to vote may have made sense at one time, but in the 21st century society is much more mobile. Low-income people, people of color and young people are populations most apt to move frequently. According to the League of Women Voters US, a non-partisan organization focused on educating and empowering voters, “They are (most often) among the millions who miss the opportunity to vote because they don’t know how to register, or they miss their state’s deadline. Allowing voters to register on Election Day ensures that new voters or those who have recently moved can update their registration and immediately vote a regular ballot.” \*

As one example of that, here in Rhode Island a glaring lack of secure housing, displaced renters and a surging homeless population create huge barriers to registering in a timely manner.

Current technology allows for secure and immediate registration. In order to ensure everyone is represented in our democracy it is important that we eliminate barriers to voting. Removing the 30-day rule for registration would be an important step toward achieving more equitable voting access.

I urge this Committee to pass S-2132, and send it to the floor of the Senate for a vote.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Mary Chace  
East Providence

\*League of Women Voters of the US website. Same-Day Voter Registration

