



CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Renay Brooks Omisore, Chairperson | Rochelle Lee, Clerk of the Board | David H. Leach, Commissioner

February 20, 2026

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

RE: Providence Board of Canvassers Support for S-2132 (Voter Registration Deadline Amendment)

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

I am writing on behalf of the Providence Board of Canvassers to request the Senate support **S-2132**, an act that would provide flexibility to the General Assembly to modify the 30-day voter registration deadline by removing it from the state Constitution. This bill is supported by a vote of both the Rhode Island Town and City Clerks' Association and the Rhode Island Board of Elections, and by the Secretary of State, among other organizations.

Rhode Island has the longest voter registration deadline in the country, which disenfranchises many voters each election cycle, but Rhode Island does have same-day registration for presidential elections. **S-2132's** removal of the 30-day deadline from the Constitution will allow the General Assembly to discuss a more reasonable, voter-centric deadline that will improve election administration and preserve the right to vote for all Rhode Islanders.

As it stands, hundreds of provisional ballots around the state are disqualified each year because residents have moved within 30 days of an election, and while they notified their local canvassers, the voter rolls are frozen by the existing provision – meaning local boards cannot process those changes if received within 30 days. Accordingly, local boards must reject many provisional ballots for otherwise eligible voters who failed to file their registration by the deadline, even though the reality is many have been legally residing in the district for months or more. The 30-day freeze means local boards cannot process registrations, which creates a backlog. By the time a primary or election is over, in Cranston alone, we have 2,000 to 3,000 registrations queued up to be processed, adding a significant burden for our staff, especially in the short period between a primary and general. This is why the Cranston Board of Canvassers unanimously supports this legislation, which asks voters to consider repealing the 30-day deadline, **presently the longest deadline of any state in the United States.**

If you have any questions regarding this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 401-680-5530, or via email at mnarducci@providenceri.gov. We appreciate your consideration and support for this legislation.

Michael P. Narducci

Very truly yours,
Michael P. Narducci
Administrator of Elections

BOARD OF CANVASSERS

Providence City Hall | 25 Dorrance Street Room 102 Providence, Rhode Island 02903

401 421 0495 ph | 401 421 9397 fax

www.providenceri.com