



February 26, 2026

The Honorable Senator Matthew L. LaMountain, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State Senate
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: SENATE BILL 2132 – TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION -- OF SUFFRAGE

Chair LaMountain and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, we are writing to express our support for Senate Bill 2132, a Joint Resolution that would propose to the voters of the state a constitutional amendment to remove the thirty (30) day state and local residency requirement for voter registration. This change would allow voters to register by or on election day, ensuring that our election system is more accessible and equitable for all Rhode Islanders.

We stand in solidarity with the Rhode Island Town and City Clerks' Association, the Rhode Island Board of Elections, and the Secretary of State in supporting this measure. Currently, Rhode Island already has same-day registration for presidential elections, as mandated by federal law. Removing the thirty (30) day deadline from our state's Constitution would empower the General Assembly to engage in a broader discussion on creating a more equitable and flexible voter registration process that would improve election administration while safeguarding the right to vote.

As it stands, many eligible voters in Rhode Island face unnecessary obstacles due to the thirty (30) day freeze on registration. Hundreds of provisional ballots are disqualified each year because individuals who have moved within 30 days of an election have notified their local canvassers, but the voter rolls are frozen by the existing provision. Consequently, local boards are unable to process changes within that period, and voters who would otherwise be eligible to vote have their provisional ballots rejected.

In some municipalities, this issue has resulted in significant backlogs of unprocessed registrations. This creates an undue burden on our local staff and significantly impacts the timely administration of elections. The current thirty (30) day freeze is an unnecessary obstacle that harms voters without providing any meaningful benefit.

By repealing the thirty (30) day deadline, we can improve voter accessibility and ensure that all eligible Rhode Islanders have the opportunity to participate in elections.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your support of Senate Bill 2132 and work to remove the thirty (30) day voter registration deadline from the state Constitution. This is an important step to ensure that our election system is fair, efficient, and accessible to all.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of Senate Judiciary Committee