

Rosie Shultz
Civic Engagement Team at Brown Votes, Brown University
Testimony in Support of SB 2132
Rhode Island Senate Judiciary Committee
February 26, 2026

Good Evening Chairman and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I'm here to testify in **support of SB 2132, moving RI one step closer to same-day voter registration.**

My name is Rosie Shultz, and I currently serve as Miss Providence through the Miss America Organization. I am a registered RI voter and a proud poll worker, and I am a third-year student at Brown University. As a poll worker and voting advocate, I've had the honor of witnessing hundreds of young people become engaged with democracy for the first time in their lives. Working at the polls reaffirmed for me that there is no greater joy than helping others engage with politics. But that experience also highlighted an undeniable truth: Our work is far from finished. Having to turn away otherwise eligible voters simply for missing arbitrary deadlines is heartbreaking. Same-day voter registration breaks down barriers to voting and ensures that every eligible citizen can participate on Election Day.

It's worth noting that Rhode Island already offers same-day voter registration for Presidential and Vice Presidential elections. This is a step in the right direction. But we must ask ourselves: If we believe it's important to expand access to voting for national elections, why should we not do the same for local and state elections? After all, the issues decided at the local and state levels often have a much more immediate and direct impact on the lives of our citizens. These are the policies that shape our schools, our roads, our healthcare systems, and the quality of life in our communities. Why should Rhode Islanders not have equal access to all of their elections?

In closing, I urge you to support this vital piece of legislation. Same-day voter registration is a simple but significant step toward a more inclusive and engaged Rhode Island. It's a step towards a state where every voice is heard and every vote matters.

Thank you for your time.