

Martha J. Tetreault, Chair

Giana Savastano, Manager



Jeffrey A. Gaulin, Clerk

John P. Cunningham, Member

CITY OF WOONSOCKET
BOARD OF CANVASSERS AND REGISTRATION
169 MAIN ST P.O. BOX B
WOONSOCKET RI 02895

2/25/2026

The Honorable Senator LaMountain
Chairperson, Senate Judiciary
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for S-2147 – “An Act Relating To Elections – Primary Elections”

Dear Chairman LaMountain and Hon. Members of the Senate Judiciary,

I am writing in my capacity as an election administrator and on behalf of the Woonsocket Board of Canvassers in support of **S-2147**, a bill that seeks to address the circumstance in which early voting is running concurrently with Primary Day. The 2026 Statewide Primary is currently slated to fall on the day after Labor Day, meaning early voting will continue onto Primary day.

Election administrators build trust and credibility with our community by providing accurate and consistent messaging about voting in Rhode Island. I believe that leaving the election deadlines as is will cause confusion among voters and potentially lead to higher levels of mistrust in elections.

Inconsistent Procedures and Hours of Voting

Operating multiple methods of voting simultaneously with different **procedures** and **voting hours** is bound to lead to confusion and frustration. In September of 2023, the city of Woonsocket held early voting for a special Federal Election on the Tuesday immediately after Labor Day. While precinct-based voting was happening across the city at our twelve polling places from 7:00AM to 8:00PM, early voting was limited to City Hall hours, which were 8:30AM to 4:00PM that same day. Voters who showed up to City Hall had the opportunity to cast their ballot, but if they ran into an issue like presenting an expired license, did not appear on the poll book, or challenged their party affiliation, they would **have** to report to their assigned precinct to cast a **provisional ballot**. Regular polling locations are equipped with the staff and resources to handle these situations. Early voting is not.

Wednesday Election has an Operational Advantage

Pushing the primary to Wednesday is more feasible from an operational standpoint. Our municipal staff will set up the polls on a regular workday, **instead of** the Labor Day holiday, and the 400+

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facilities that are used statewide can accommodate our set-up crews during their regular business hours.

When the polls open, I know voters are showing up to a polling facility that is equipped to handle the volume of election day voting, with ample parking, staffing and equipment for 100% of its registered voters.

Providing consistent procedures for American citizens to exercise their right to vote is paramount. I respectfully urge your support for **S-2147**.

Sincerely,

Giana Savastano

Manager

Woonsocket Board of Canvassers

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