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Nicholas J. Lima
Registrar / Director of Elections



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Anthony J. Mastantuono
Member

CRANSTON BOARD OF CANVASSERS
869 PARK AVE
CRANSTON, RI 02910-2786

February 20, 2026

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

RE: Cranston Board of Canvassers Support for S-2282 (Adds Early Voting Newspaper Ad Requirement)

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

I am writing on behalf of the Cranston Board of Canvassers to request your support for **S-2282**, an act that would require local boards of canvassers to advertise early voting twice in a local newspaper, among other reforms to outdated newspaper ads and municipal website postings. This bill is supported by the Cranston Board of Canvassers, RI Town and City Clerks' Association, RI Board of Elections, and RI League of Cities and Towns.

S-2282 mandates that local boards advertise early voting both in a newspaper and on their municipal website, prior to the start of and during the early voting period for every election. Current state law has no requirement to advertise the dates, hours, and location of early voting, which this act seeks to remedy. In order to avoid adding financial burdens to local election offices, as a trade-off, the bill also modifies some existing newspaper legal ads, resulting in a net-neutral cost for election offices in their extremely limited voter outreach budgets.

It also gives local boards of canvassers the option to advertise the registration deadline on their websites instead of a newspaper, but does not eliminate the newspaper ad entirely. The bill further modifies the advertising provisions for local ballot questions, requiring either a newspaper ad or a jurisdiction-wide household mailing, in addition to adding a new website posting requirement, among other language modernizations related to the voter registration deadline that improves century-old, outdated language. **A previous version of this bill has passed the House twice, and also previously passed in the Senate.** It has since been modified to add protections for voters with disabilities, as recommended by several advocacy organizations in their testimony.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions on this legislation, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 401-780-3128, or via email at nlima@cranstonri.gov. We appreciate your support.

Very truly yours,

Nicholas J. Lima
Registrar / Director of Elections

Cc: Kirk McDonough, Chairperson, Cranston Board of Canvassers