

Rosie Shultz
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Testimony in Support of S3143: RI Voting Rights Act
Rhode Island Senate Judiciary Committee
April 7, 2026

Good Evening Chairman and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I'm here to testify in **support of S3143, the RI Voting Rights Act.**

My name is Rosie Shultz. 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. All Rhode Islanders, no matter what language they speak, deserve equal access to engage with our democratic processes. As it stands without this VRA, RI currently has no ballot language access provisions. Many cities and towns across RI, including Providence where I am a poll worker, have large Spanish-speaking populations.

I urge you to support this vital piece of legislation. Passing a state VRA 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.