

Stacey Silva
45 Earl St
West Warwick, RI 02893

7 April 2026

Chair LaMountain
Senate Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence RI

RE: Support for S3143 (Rhode Island Voting Rights Act).

Chair LaMountain and Esteemed Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am a life-long Rhode Islander and care deeply about the future of our state and protecting the rights of those who live here, especially the right to vote. I am writing in support of S3143 as a member of the Women's Policy Institute of the Women's Fund of RI. It is imperative that the Rhode Island General Assembly pass the Rhode Island Voting Rights Act to preserve the right to vote among minority groups, protect voters from intimidation at the polls, eliminate racial gerrymandering, and ensure access to voting by providing ballots and instructions at the polls in languages other than English in eligible districts.

78% of Americans support the passage of voting rights protections at the state level and where they have been enacted across the country there have been significant improvements:

- Colorado saw a 93% voter registration rate, which is 10% above national average
- In Virginia, voter complaints dropped by 65%
- In California, the Hispanic–White turnout gap narrowed by 5.6%.
- Changes to how voter discrimination lawsuits are handled have saved districts hundreds of thousands of dollars.

There is an immediate need to act on S3143 to make sure Rhode Island can protect the rights of its voters when the federal government will not. The Department of Justice has abandoned their responsibility to enforce the Voting Rights Act by shifting priorities to cases involving election fraud while dismissing cases involving voter discrimination. And soon, the Supreme Court will decide the case of Louisiana v. Callais, which may make it harder to combat gerrymandering. It is time to take action NOW against this dismantling of our rights and protect Rhode Islanders by passing the Rhode Island Voting Rights Act.

Sincerely,

Stacey Silva