
FW: S-3143 Support – Rhode Island Voting Rights Act

From SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>

Date Tue 4/7/2026 9:37 AM

To Senate Judiciary Committee <SenateJudiciary@rilegislature.onmicrosoft.com>



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From: Silvia Ess <sylviaarieli@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, April 6, 2026 10:53 PM

To: SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>

Cc: Sen. LaMountain, Matthew L. <sen-lamountain@rilegislature.gov>; Rep. Handy, Arthur <rep-Handy@rilegislature.gov>

Subject: S-3143 Support – Rhode Island Voting Rights Act

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To: Senate Judiciary Committee Rhode Island General Assembly

From: Sylvia Stipic, Cranston, Rhode Island, District 18

Dear Chair La Mountain, Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and District 18 rep Arthur Handy:

My name is Sylvia Stipic, and I am a resident of Cranston, Rhode Island. I am writing to formally express my strong support for the Rhode Island Voting Rights Act (Bill S-3143) and to urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to recommend its passage to the full Senate.

As a Rhode Island resident, I believe that access to the ballot box is fundamental to our democracy. With federal Voting Rights Act protections currently under sustained attack, it is imperative that our state steps up to ensure that every eligible voter in Rhode Island has real voting power.

Specifically, I support S-3143 because:

- It prohibits voter suppression and racial vote dilution, ensuring communities of color are not denied fair representation.
- It strengthens protections against intimidation, deception, and obstruction at the polls.

- It bans discrimination in voting based on a wide range of identities, including religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, and ancestry.
- It mandates language access for voters with limited English proficiency, ensuring everyone can participate effectively.
- It creates a "democracy canon," directing judges to interpret election laws in a way that protects and expands voting rights.

Without securing our right to vote, we lose the primary mechanism to create positive change in our state. I urge you to recommend the passage of S-3143 and to urge the full Senate to pass the Rhode Island Voting Rights Act during this session.

Thank you for your time and for your dedication to protecting democracy in Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Stipic

Cranston, RI