

TOWN OF RICHMOND, RHODE ISLAND
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Board of Canvassers
 Richmond Town Hall
 Council Chambers
 May 15, 2025
 2:00 P.M.

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 P.M.

Members present: Carolyn S. Richard, Eileen Burton. Pamela Rohland, Stephen Swallow, and Ray Pouliot were not present. Also present were Town Clerk Erin Liese and Elections Clerk Allison O’Connor.

B. NEW BUSINESS

Please Note in accordance with Section 42-46-6 (b) the Commission May Review, Discuss, and/or take Action on the following items:

- 1) **Approve meeting minutes from April 15, 2025**

The minutes were accepted as written.

- 2) **Canvass and Correct the Voter List for the Richmond Budget Referendum**

The Voter List for the Richmond Budget Referendum was certified.

- 3) **Review Logistics for the June 3rd Richmond Budget Referendum**

The BOC schedule was reviewed for assistance that day.

- 4) **Review and consider the following Elections Legislation to determine if the Board would like to take a stance**

Bill Number	Sub A	Chamber	Sponsor	Submitted By	Date Introduced	Purpose
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152		Senate	Lawson		1/31/2025	Spells out rules and regulations for the presidential preference primary elections, and would also establish rules for ranked choice voting tabulation and results reporting by the secretary of state.
282		Senate	Morgan		2/13/2025	Requires verification of an applicant's date of birth and either a Rhode Island driver's license number or state identification number on all applications seeking mail ballots and emergency mail ballots.
283		Senate	Morgan		2/13/2025	Requires that only the mail ballot voter/spouse/court appointed guardian/cohabitant/or adult person related to the voter by blood or marriage, be allowed to physically mail the voted mail ballot.
288		Senate	Bell		2/13/2025	Provides that, for the general officers of the state, no person could be elected to the same general office more than twice.
513		Senate	Patalano	RITCCA	2/26/2025	Increases the maximum number of voters that a polling place can accommodate 3,000 to 3,500 and provide for existing polling places that exceed the maximum number of voters, not be required to be changed until the next decennial redistricting.
517		Senate	Mack		2/26/2025	Allows citizens of a city or town who are at least sixteen (16) years of age to register to vote and to vote in school committee elections in municipalities where school committees are elected entities.
520		Senate	Bissaillon	RITCCA	2/26/2025	Modernizes and streamlines the existing processes for getting on the permanent mail ballot application list.
521		Senate	Burke	RITCCA	2/26/2025	Establishes a process by which vacancies in a municipal election office and local canvassing board are filled.
522		Senate	McKenney	RITCCA	2/26/2025	Requires all write-in votes, regardless of qualification, to be reported and published by the state board of elections, on its website.

524	Senate	Quezada			2/26/2025	Requires state use actual residences of persons in government custody for redistricting purposes. Information would be collected by the department of corrections and forwarded to the division of statewide planning, to be utilized for redistricting.
541	Senate	Lauria			2/26/2025	Increases from 7 days to 9 days the period of time in which a request for a recount of the votes cast can be made to the board of elections and no certificates of election may be issued until the recount, if any, is completed.
569	Senate	Zurier			2/26/2025	Adds early voting to the fifty (50) feet buffer prohibitions against politicking on election day voting.
729	Senate	Tikoian	SOS		3/7/2025	Considers election officials and poll workers "public officials" for purposes of the prohibition on making threats to public officials.
741	Senate	Raptakis	SOS		3/7/2025	Amends several statutes relating to elections and the dates for primaries and dates within which to file nomination papers and object to nomination papers.
815	Senate	Patalano	BOE		3/14/2025	Allows the board of elections to tabulate mail ballots in local special elections in the same manner as in tabulate mail ballots in statewide elections.
816	Senate	DiPalma	SOS		3/14/2025	Creates the deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media in election communications chapter to regulate the use of synthetic media in elections.
819	Senate	Dimitri	RITCCA		3/14/2025	Requires the local board of canvassers to publish early voting dates, hours, and location, at least twice in a newspaper of general circulation and to publish the same on the municipality's website for the duration of in-person early voting period.
820	Senate	DiMario	SOS		3/14/2025	Would propose to the voters of the state a constitutional amendment regarding eligibility to vote and to be a candidate.

907		Senate	Thompson		3/27/2025	Redefines "Political Party" and defines and distinguishes between "major parties" and "minor parties" based on the total number of votes a party's candidate received in the previous election.
953		Senate	Dimitri	SOS	4/4/2025	Exempts emergency mail ballots from the requirement to have certain wording regarding "mail voters" on the ballot.
5084		House	Ackerman		1/16/2025	Adds early voting to the fifty (50) feet buffer prohibitions against politicking on election day voting.
5086		House	Bennett		1/16/2025	Proposes an amendment to the State Constitution, Article IV, Section 1, that would allow four (4) year terms for general assembly members, commencing with the 2028 election.
5137		House	Brien		1/22/2025	Provides that the state board of elections shall verify the citizenship status of all persons on the voter registration list.
5139		House	J. Lombardi		1/22/2025	Proposes an amendment to the State Constitution, Article IV, Section 1, that would create four (4) year terms for general assembly members and impose term limits of three (3) full four (4) year terms on said members commencing with the 2028 election.
5232		House	Brien		1/29/2025	Authorizes early voting for the ten (10) calendar days except the second weekend prior immediately preceding election day, while requiring, as is practicable, that all the election day protections and procedures be afforded to early voters.
5274		House	Cruz		1/31/2025	Requires state use actual residences of persons in government custody for redistricting purposes. Information would be collected by the department of corrections and forwarded to the secretary of state to be utilized for redistricting.
5275		House	Kislak		1/31/2025	Establishes an instant runoff form of ranked choice voting limited, to general assembly primary elections, with three (3) or more candidates.

5276		House	Shanley		1/31/2025	Establishes the Ranked Choice Voting for Rhode Island Presidential Primaries and provides for new sections on ranked choice voting tabulation and results reporting
5277		House	Corvese		1/31/2025	Changes the process of nominating candidates for the general election, by replacing the political party primary with a primary general election.
5300		House	Dawson	SOS	2/5/2025	Considers election officials and poll workers "public officials" for purposes of the prohibition on making threats to public officials
5311		House	Shanley	BOE	2/5/2025	Allows the board of elections to tabulate mail ballots in local special elections in the same manner as in tabulate mail ballots in statewide elections.
5312		House	Carson	RITTCA	2/5/2025	Establishes a process by which vacancies in a municipal election office and local canvassing board are filled.
5315		House	Finkelman	BOE	2/5/2025	Allows retired election officials to work for the state board of elections on a temporary basis in any year in which a statewide, congressional or referendum general election is held.
5381		House	Speakman	SOS	2/7/2025	Amends several statutes relating to elections and the dates for primaries and dates within which to file nomination papers and object to nomination papers.
5382		House	Felix		2/7/2025	Allows citizens of a city or town who are at least sixteen (16) years of age to register to vote and to vote in school committee elections in municipalities where school committees are elected entities.
5383		House	Place		2/7/2025	Changes primary election to Wednesday if after Labor Day and does not mandate local boards of election to have voter registration drive at high school.
5384		House	Boylan		2/7/2025	Increases from 7 days to 9 days the period of time in which a request for a recount of the votes cast can be made to the board of elections and no certificates of election may be issued until the recount, if any, is completed

5514	House	Furtado	SOS	2/13/2025	Exempts emergency mail ballots from the requirement to have certain wording regarding "mail voters" on the ballot.
5515	House	Alzate	SOS	2/13/2025	Would propose to the voters of the state a constitutional amendment regarding eligibility to vote and to be a candidate.
5516	House	Baginski	RITCCA	2/13/2025	Requires all write-in votes, regardless of qualification, to be reported and published by the state board of elections, on its website.
5517	House	Baginski	RITCCA	2/13/2025	Increases the maximum number of voters that a polling place can accommodate 3,000 to 3,500 and provide for existing polling places that exceed the maximum number of voters, not be required to be changed until the next decennial redistricting.
5518	House	Baginski	RITCCA	2/13/2025	Requires the local board of canvassers to publish early voting dates, hours, and location, at least twice in a newspaper of general circulation and to publish the same on the municipality's website for the duration of in-person early voting period.
5519	House	Newberry		2/13/2025	Repeals authorizing Rhode Island to join an interstate compact, which would allow Presidents and Vice Presidents to be elected by a national popular vote rather than the electoral college.
5520	House	Newberry		2/15/2025	Changes the manner by which presidential electoral college electors are elected and create a system of grouping of municipalities of equal populations, one of each of Rhode Island's electoral votes.
5538	House	Cruz		2/18/2025	Requires state use actual residences of persons in government custody for redistricting purposes. Information would be collected by the department of corrections and forwarded to the division of statewide planning, to be utilized for redistricting.
5708	House	Fascia		2/26/2025	Allows automatic voter registration for Rhode Islanders applying for hunting and fishing licenses

5709		House	Serpa	RICTCA	2/26/2025	Modernizes and streamlines the existing processes for getting on the permanent mail ballot application list.
5710		House	Perez		2/26/2025	Would amend certain signature requirements and deadlines regarding primaries for election of delegates to national conventions for presidential preference.
5711		House	Brien		2/26/2025	Requires verification of an applicant's date of birth and either a Rhode Island driver's license number or state identification number on all applications seeking mail ballots and emergency mail ballots
5712		House	Edwards		2/26/2025	This act would establish fusion voting in Rhode Island, allowing candidates to appear on ballots as nominees of multiple political parties, for the same office. The act would create comprehensive procedures for: (1) Cross-endorsement nominations and candidate acceptance; (2) Ballot design requirements with accessibility standards; (3) Vote tabulation that preserves separate party-line totals, while combining votes for final results; (4) Implementation requirements for voting equipment. The act also would reduce the threshold for political party qualification, from five percent (5%) to one percent (1%) of votes in statewide elections.
5713		House	Edwards		2/26/2025	Prohibits members of elected city/town political party committees as well as representative/senate district committees from serving on local canvassing authorities.
5872	Yes	House	Baginski	SOS	2/28/2025	Creates the deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media in election communications chapter to regulate the use of synthetic media in elections.
5873		House	Roberts		2/28/2025	Requires verification of an applicant's date of birth and either a Rhode Island driver's license number or state identification number on all applications seeking mail ballots and emergency mail ballots

5874		House	Cruz		2/28/2025	Makes it easier to vote for people eligible to vote who are incarcerated at the Rhode Island adult correctional institute and creates the position of "voting coordinator," within the department of corrections.
6092		Jouse	Voas	SOS	3/14/2025	Makes several amendments to provide for an online nomination paper portal for election nomination papers.
6251		House	Place		4/23/2025	Redefines "political party" and defines and distinguishes between "major parties" and "minor parties" based on the total number of votes a party's candidate received in the previous election.

The Board voted in support of the following:

Senate Bill 513 – RITCCA, increases the maximum number of voters that a polling place can accommodate 3,000 to 3,500 and provide for existing polling places that exceed the maximum number of voters, not to be required to be changed until the next decennial redistricting.

Senate Bill 520 – RITCCA, Modernizes and streamlines the existing processes for getting on the permanent mail ballot application list.

Senate Bill 541 – Increases from 7 days to 9 days the period of time in which a request for a recount of the votes cast can be made to the board of elections and no certificates of election may be issued until the recount, if any, is completed.

Senate Bill 569 – Adds early voting to the fifty (50) feet buffer prohibitions against politicking on election day voting.

Senate Bill 729 – Considers election officials and poll workers “public officials” for purposes of the prohibition on making threats to public officials.

Senate Bill 741 – Amends several statutes relating to elections and the dates for primaries and dates within which to file nomination papers and object to nomination papers.

Senate Bill 819 – Requires the local board of canvassers to publish early voting dates, hours, and location, at least twice in a newspaper of general circulation and to publish the same on the municipality’s website for the duration of in -person early voting period.

Senate Bill 907 – Redefines “Political Party” and defines and distinguishes between “major parties” and “minor parties” based on the total number of votes a party’s candidate received in the previous

election.

House Bill 5300 – Considers election officials and poll workers “public officials” for purposes of the prohibition of making threats to public officials.

House Bill 5315 – Allows retired election officials to work for the state board of elections on a temporary basis in any year in which a statewide, congressional or referendum general election is held.

House Bill 5381 – Amends several statutes relating to elections and the dates for primaries and dates within which to file nomination papers and object to nomination papers.

House Bill 5383 – Changes primary election to Wednesday if after Labor Day and does not mandate local boards of election to have voter registration drive at high school.

House Bill 5384 – Increases from 7 days to 9 days the period of time in which a request for a recount of the votes cast can be made to the board of elections and no certificates of election may be issued until the recount, if any, is completed.

House Bill 5514 – Exempts emergency mail ballots from the requirement to have certain wording regarding “mail voters” on the ballot.

The Board opposed the following:

Senate Bill 283 – Requires that only the mail ballot voter/spouse/court appointed guardian/cohabitant/ or adult person related to the voter by blood or marriage, be allowed to physically mail the voted mail ballot.

Senate Bill 521 – Establishes a process by which vacancies in a municipal election office and local canvassing board are filled.

Senate Bill 522 – Requires all write-in votes, regardless of qualification, to be reported and published by the state board of elections, on its website.

Senate Bill 815 – Allows the board of elections to tabulate mail ballots in local special elections in the same manner as in tabulate mail ballots in statewide elections.

Senate Bill 816 – Creates the deceptive and fraudulent synthetic media in election communications chapter to regulate the use of synthetic media in elections.

House Bill 5232 – Authorizes early voting for the ten (10) calendar days except the second weekend prior immediately preceding election day, while requiring, as is practicable, that all the election day protections and procedures be afforded to early voters.

House Bill 5382 – Allows citizens of a city or town who are at least sixteen (16) years of age to register to vote and to vote in school committee elections in municipalities where school committees

are elected entities.

House Bill 5516 – Requires all write-in votes, regardless of qualification, to be reported and published by the state board of elections, on its website.

House Bill 5712 – This act would establish fusion voting in Rhode Island, allowing candidates to appear on ballots as nominees of multiple political parties, for the same office. The act would create comprehensive procedures for 1) Cross-endorsement nominations and candidate acceptance; 2) Ballot design requirements with accessibility standards; 3) Vote tabulation that preserves separate party-line totals, while combining votes for final results; 4) Implementation requirements for voting equipment. The act would also reduce the threshold for political party qualification, from five percent (5%) to one percent (1%) of votes in statewide elections.

House Bill 5713 – Prohibits members of elected city/town political party committees as well as representative/senate district committees from serving on local canvassing authorities.

House Bill 6092 – Makes several amendments to provide for an online nomination paper portal for election nomination papers.

5) Review Upcoming Dates and Elections

The next Board of Canvasser meeting will take place on June 12th at 10:00 A.M.

C. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 P.M.

Attest:

Erin F. Liese, CMC
Town Clerk