

The logo features the text "Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics" in a stylized, slightly distressed font. Behind the text is a map of the state of Rhode Island, colored in shades of orange and brown.

SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF COYOTE RI

February 14th, 2020

Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Bella Robinson. I am a resident of West Warwick, (District 27- Representative Patricia Serpa). I am writing to you today in support of S2255, S2232 & S2097.

S2255 sets up instant- runoff voting for primaries for the General Assembly. Instant-runoff voting is a better voting system than our current method, which is why we also support S2232 to create a commission to study the issue. We also support S2097 repeal's RI's law that requires voter ID, so people could cast a regular in person ballot with no ID, just a signature. It's common sense that this would remove barriers so all eligible Rhode Islanders can vote.

We support S2123- this bill says that election results for the General Assembly will be subject to a possible audit where the Board of Elections checks the voting machine results by looking at enough of the actual paper ballots to be statistically confident that the voting machines are accurate. This will help to ensure we have fair elections and boost voters' confidence that our elections are fair.

We support S2151, a bill that says that the candidate endorsed by the party will no longer automatically be listed first on the ballot in primary elections. We support that all candidates will be listed in random order whether they are party endorsed or not.

We support S2119 that would allow the board of elections to begin the certification of mail ballots twenty days prior to election date. It also establishes a new and more comprehensive mail ballot voting signature process.

We also support S2257 to abolish prison gerrymandering by ensuring that prisoners are counted at their original residences instead of at the jail when district lines are drawn. In fact, current RI law already says that prisoners should be counted at their original residences when district lines are drawn, but this isn't followed in practice since there is no official process

for collecting the data to adjust the census's population counts. This bill sets up an official process for the Secretary of State to adjust population counts, and says that it will apply to the redistricting done in 2022 and in future elections.

For the reasons highlighted above, we encourage you to VOTE YES on S2255, S2232, S2097, S2123, S2151, S2119 & S2257

Sincerely,

Bella Robinson, Executive Director
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