



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE
PLANTATIONS

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
50 Branch Avenue
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NOTICE

The Board of Elections will meet in their offices, 50 Branch Avenue, Providence, R.I. as follows:

Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

1. The Board may vote to certify the mail ballots for the Foster Town Council Special Election held on February 2, 2016.
2. The Board may vote to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 27, 2016.
3. The Board may vote to approve the minutes of the workshop held on January 27, 2016.
4. The Board may vote to approve and/or amend staff recommendations for proposed legislation for submission to the General Assembly. The summary of the proposed changes are as follows:
 - a. R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 17-25-3 and 17-25-10.1 are amended for the purpose of eliminating aggregate limits that a person can contribute in a calendar year and adding reporting requirement for contributions that have been earmarked, in order to comply with United States Supreme Court ruling in *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission*, 134 S.Ct. 1434 (2014).
 - b. R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-25-11(c)(2) is amended to include a provision for submission of a paper copy of a candidate's or office holder's bank account statement upon dissolution of the account with the Board of Elections.

- c. R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-25-10(b) is amended in order to eliminate the ambiguity of reporting requirements for an independent advocate found in Title 17, Chapter 25.3 of the General Laws.
- d. R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-19-1(7) is amended to delete the reference to “party” and to modify the definition of a vote to conform to new voting equipment.
- e. R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-15-14 is amended to delete sub-paragraph (c) so that local boards of canvassers may hire poll workers for primaries who are employed by either the United States government, the State of Rhode Island, or any municipality within the State of Rhode Island.
- f. R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-19-4 is amended to delete sub-paragraph (c) and modify sub-paragraph (b) for the purpose of eliminating the current ratio of one voting booth for every 175 qualified electors, in order to provide the Board with the flexibility to increase or decrease voting booths necessary to facilitate the orderly conduct of the election.
- g. R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-19-12 is amended to delete the requirement that the local boards of canvassers retrieve election supplies from the Board of Elections, and authorizes the Board of Elections to deliver or retrieve election supplies through an officer determined by the State Board.
- h. R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-19-13 is amended to make optional the designation of and provision of optical scan voting equipment and sample ballots to each of the 39 regional sites within the state.
- i. R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-19-23 is amended to delete sub-paragraphs (2) and (4) and further modifies the statute to permit the use of more than one bipartisan pair of supervisors within the polling place.
- j. R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-19-31 is amended to refer to the electronic versions of the mail ballot consistent with the use of new voting equipment.
- k. R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-19-33 modifies the statute to include best practices, new voting equipment, and to accommodate the potential use of electronic poll books in future elections.
- l. R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-20-2.1 is an amendment to change the mail ballot application, permitting the application to serve as an affirmation form for inactive voters who request a mail ballot from the address from which the voter is currently registered.

- m. R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-20-2.2 is modified to permit the mail ballot application to be used as an affirmation form for inactive voters who request a mail ballot from the address from which the voter is currently registered. The amendment also eliminates the language on the application that requires voters to state the nature of the emergency, which is no longer required under Rhode Island law.
 - n. R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-20-19 is amended for the purpose of deleting the reference to the Board of Elections' address.
 - o. R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-20-23 is amended for the purpose of modifying subparagraph (d) to delete the language that the oath envelope must be sealed in the outer envelope and also changes the time that the ballot must be received by the Board to match the requirements of other statutes that indicate when polls close or ballots must be received by the Board.
 - p. R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-20-29 is amended to permit a voter who has requested a mail ballot but has not voted, to be allowed to receive a provisional ballot on the primary/election day.
 - q. R.I. Gen. Laws § 17-23-2 is repealed in order to be consistent with the United States Supreme Court ruling in *McIntyre v. Ohio Elections Commission*, 514 U.S. 334 (1995) and a recent ruling by the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island in the matter of *John Blakeslee v. The Attorney General for the State of Rhode Island, et al.*, C.A. No. 14-187-S.
5. The Board may vote to approve a regulation relating to polling place conduct, to be submitted for public review and comment, consistent with the rule making requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act, R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2, *et seq.*
 6. The Board may discuss and vote on the type of qualifications to be sought for filling various employment positions within the Board organization, including a vacancy in the Campaign Finance division.
 7. The Board may discuss and vote upon a policy to be adopted relating to deceased candidates and the disposition of a deceased candidate's campaign finance account, including any remaining monies within the campaign account.
 8. The Board may vote to meet in executive session pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 42-465(a)(4) and 17-25-5(a)(7)(i) to discuss and/or vote on possible violations of campaign finance laws in a campaign finance matter.
 9. The Board may vote to meet in executive session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(1).

10. Adjournment.

All meetings of the Board are open meetings and all interested parties are invited to attend. Any questions concerning the agenda should be directed to Robert Rapoza, at 401-222-1916. Anyone wishing to attend this meeting who may have special needs for access or services such as hearing assistance or interpreter services please contact this office as soon as possible.