

*“Let Rhode Island Vote” Media Briefing
March 10, 2021*

Remarks of Tracy Kubricky, Narragansett

My name is Tracy Kubricky and in 2020 I voted by mail. Voting in 2020 was very convenient. It would be extremely helpful to make this permanent for many reasons. Some of those reasons include:

I do a lot of volunteering. When things are back to normal, and life isn't taken up by Zoom meetings, I am often on the road. It is foreseeable that I would not know until the night before election day that I will not be in town and unable to vote. If I am able to vote by mail, I will not have to try to rearrange my schedule to get back to Narragansett before the polls close. Another important reason is my daughter and son-in-law are having a baby soon. They both work on Tuesdays. Mail ballots would help them out also.

If the Mail Ballot Drop Boxes are made permanent, the ballots can be dropped off anytime without getting out of the car. This is very helpful with a baby or small child since they wouldn't need to be unbuckled, carried into the building, brought back to the car, and re-buckled. Especially if they are sleeping!!!!

As this legislation proposes, I also feel we should be able to sign up for a mail in ballot online. When signing up online, voters should be able to join a permanent Mail ballot so that voters don't have to request a ballot each election. Signing up online increases productivity because it is often difficult to read handwriting. It also increases productivity for the election officials since they are not repeating the work needed for each election.

Another item that was very helpful this year was doing away with the requirement for two witnesses or having the ballot notarized. This is an unnecessary step. It can be very inconvenient to try to get two people to sign the ballot or to go to a bank or library to get the ballot notarized.

Please keep the improvements made to voting in 2020.