

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 124

EFFECTIVE ~~APPROVED~~ February 27, 2012

WHEREAS, RIGL 17-11-1, Entitled: "An Act Relating to Elections - Voting Districts and Officials" currently limits the number of voters to be served at a polling place to 1900; and

WHEREAS, Legislation has been introduced to increase the maximum number of voters per precinct to 4,000; and

WHEREAS, This legislation was introduced during the 2011 session of the General Assembly and passed the House of Representatives by an overwhelming majority; and

WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island is in the process of re-districting its Congressional, Senate and Representative Districts; and

WHEREAS, Each of the 39 cities and towns in Rhode Island will also need to re-district their voting precincts in the upcoming months; and

WHEREAS, With the implementation of the new mail ballot rules and regulations, it is anticipated that voter turnout at the polls will decrease; and

WHEREAS, Increasing the maximum number of voters per polling location will allow for a reduction in the number of polling locations used statewide; and

WHEREAS, As a result, the State and municipalities would both realize savings in election costs; and

WHEREAS, Due to reductions in state aid to cities and towns and economic conditions in general, it is incumbent upon elected officials to examine areas of potential savings to taxpayers which do not negatively impact services; and

WHEREAS, The proposed legislation has been endorsed by the Elections Committee of the Rhode Island Town and City Clerks Association.


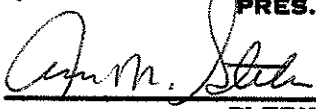
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence urges the General Assembly to pass a proposed amendment to RIGL 17-11-1 which would increase the limit of voters per polling location from 1,900 to 4,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Clerk is hereby authorized to sign and submit a copy of this resolution to the City of Providence's Senator and Representative in the Rhode Island General Assembly as well as the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, seeking their consideration and support thereof.

IN CITY COUNCIL

FEB 16 2012

READ AND PASSED


PRES.

CLERK

Effective without the
Mayor's Signature:


Anna M. Stetson
City Clerk

2012 -- H 7055

LC00154**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND****IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY****JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012**

**A N A C T
RELATING TO ELECTIONS****Introduced By:** Representatives Carnevale, Hull, DaSilva, Messier, and Ruggiero**Date Introduced:** January 10, 2012**Referred To:** House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

- 1-1 SECTION 1. Section 17-11-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-11 entitled "Voting
1-2 Districts and Officials" is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 1-3 **17-11-1. Division of towns and representative district into voting districts.** -- The
1-4 local board of any city or town may, on or before the sixtieth (60th) day preceding any election,
1-5 divide or redive the city or town, or any representative district in the city or town, into voting
1-6 districts. The local board of each city or town shall determine voting districts by geographical
1-7 boundaries and by no other means. No voting district shall at any time comprise parts of two (2)
1-8 or more wards. It shall be the duty of the board to divide the town, representative district, or ward,
1-9 which shall be limited to four thousand (4,000) voters in the same voting district and approved by
1-10 the state board, excepting that the state board may approve a voting district serving more than
1-11 four thousand (4,000) voters if so that substantially not more than nineteen hundred (1900) voters
1-12 ~~shall be served by the same polling place; provided, that subject to the approval of the state board,~~
1-13 ~~a local board may provide for serving more than nineteen hundred (1900) voters in the same~~
1-14 ~~polling place where the effect to the contrary would be of creating a polling place serving less~~
1-15 ~~than one hundred fifty (150) one thousand (1,000) voters.~~ A polling place may be located either
1-16 within or without the voting district for which it is established; provided, that a polling place may
1-17 be located outside the district only upon unanimous determination of the local board and subject

- 1-18 to the approval of the state board that a suitable place is not available within the voting district. In
1-19 making the calculation required by this section, voters whose names are on the inactive list of
1-20 voters shall not be included.
- 2-1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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LC00154
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**EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF**

**A N A C T
RELATING TO ELECTIONS**

- 3-1 This act would increase the maximum number of active voters served by the same polling
3-2 place from 1,900 voters to 4,000 voters or the local election board can increase the number of
3-3 voters at a single voting place above the 4,000 voter limit as long as the effect would not result in
3-4 a voting place serving less than 1,000 voters.
- 3-5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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