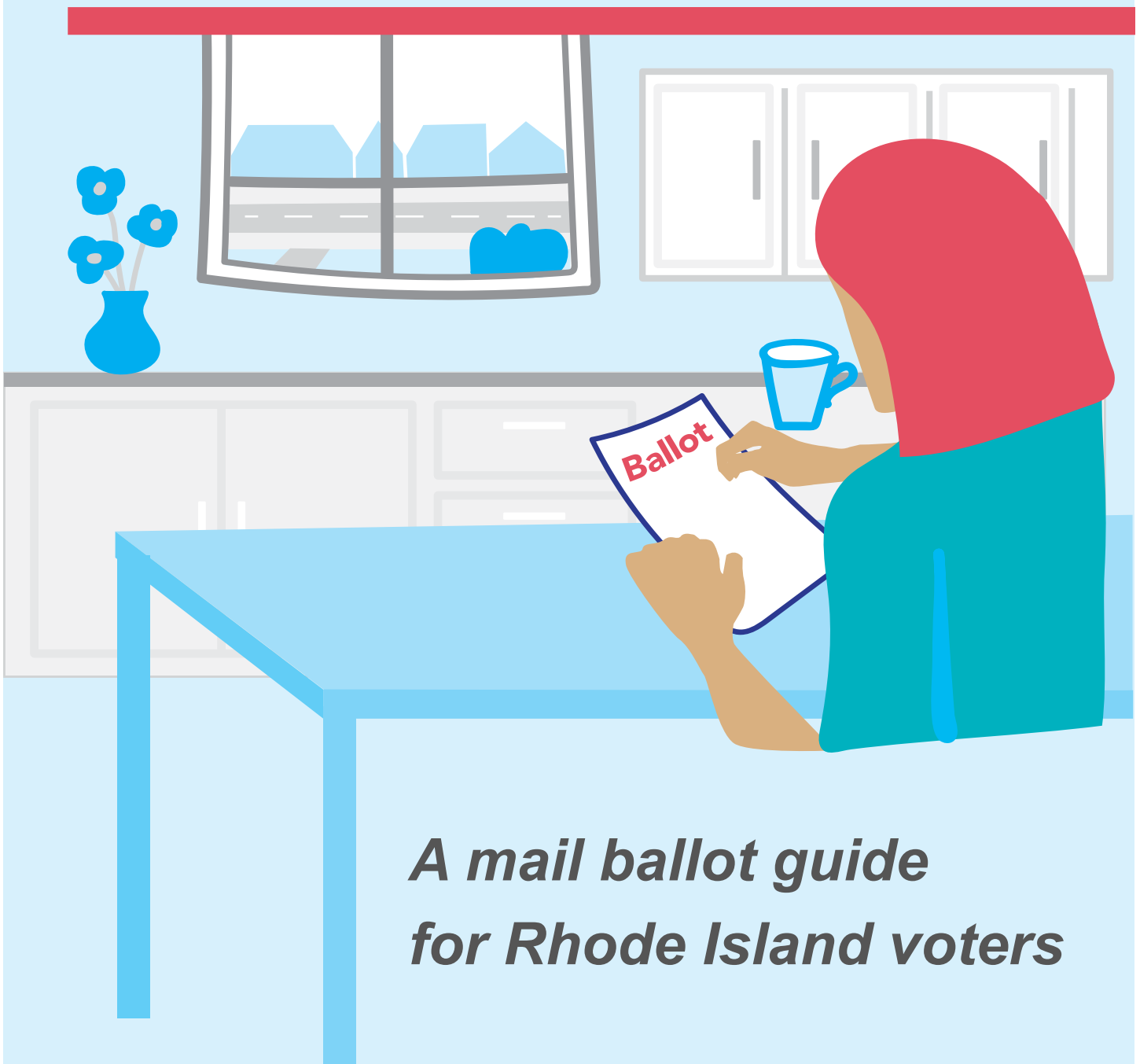


Vote from the safety of home!



*A mail ballot guide
for Rhode Island voters*



Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State

A letter from Secretary Gorbea

Dear Rhode Island Voter,


As your Secretary of State, it is my responsibility to make sure you are able to exercise your right to vote safely and securely. The social distancing practices that help us prevent the spread of COVID-19 have forced us to change many aspects of our lives but we can still be united in casting our votes.

That's why I encourage all Rhode Island voters to apply for a mail ballot and vote safely from home. Voting from home with a mail ballot makes it possible for you to vote without having to go to a polling place in person.

I understand that voting from home will be new for many Rhode Islanders. This guide is meant to answer common questions you may have about the process.

Rhode Islanders are resilient and resourceful. During these challenging times, we can help keep each other safe and show the nation that we will safeguard our democracy through our vote. Stay strong and be a voter!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nellie M. Gorbea". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State

2020 Election Dates

Here are the important dates that every voter should know for the 2020 election cycle:

September 8 | Primary Day

AUG 09 Deadline to register to vote

AUG 11 Disaffiliation deadline (to vote in a different party primary)

AUG 18 Deadline to apply for a mail ballot at 4 p.m.

AUG 19 to SEPT 8 Early In-Person Voting

SEPT 8 **Primary Day**
Deadline to return mail ballot at 8 p.m.

November 3 | General Election Day

SEPT 21 Deadline to apply for a braille/tactile ballot

OCT 04 Deadline to register to vote*

OCT 13 Deadline to apply for a mail ballot at 4 p.m.

OCT 14 to NOV 2 Early In-Person Voting

NOV 3 **Election Day**
Deadline to return mail ballot at 8 p.m.

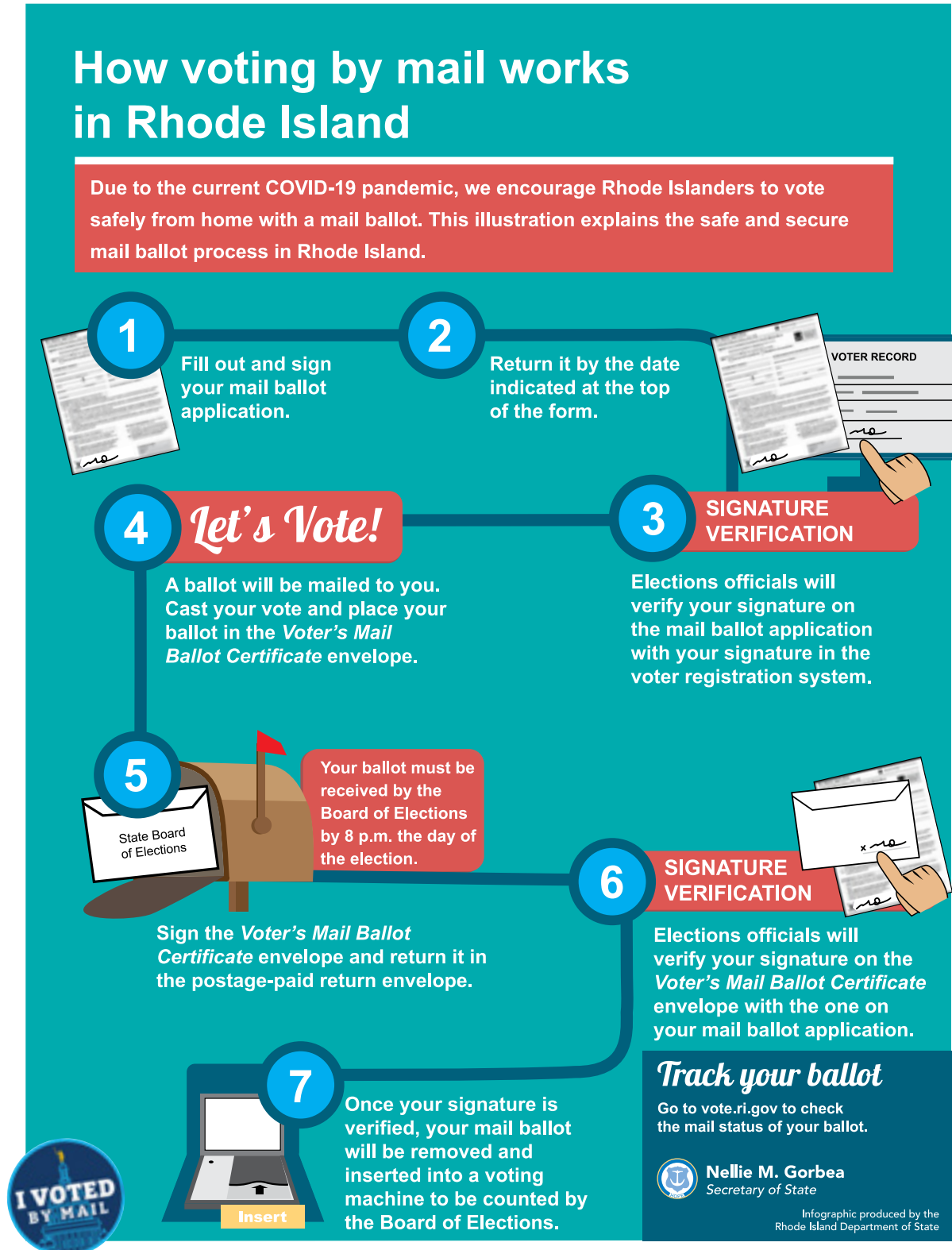
* SAME DAY VOTER REGISTRATION

Same day voter registration on Election Day is available for the Presidential and Vice Presidential races only. Contact your local board of canvassers for more information.

Voting from home in seven easy steps

Every election, millions of voters around the country, including our military and overseas voters, cast their ballots by mail. The illustration below outlines just how fast, easy and safe it is to vote from home with a mail ballot.

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Filling out your mail ballot application

The first step to voting from home is requesting a mail ballot by completing and returning a mail ballot application. You must fill out an application for each election you plan to vote with a mail ballot.

Below are some tips to make sure you are completing the application properly. Remember to return your mail ballot application well before the application deadline (posted on page 3).


The date of the election you are applying to vote by mail for is listed here.

Mail Ballot Application



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
RI Department of State

→ To receive a mail ballot, you must complete and submit this application to your local board of canvassers by: _____



View your voter information or track your ballot at vote.ri.gov

Box A Voter information

Full Name of Voter _____

Home Address (where you are registered to vote) _____

City/Town _____ State **RI** Zip Code _____

Date of Birth _____ Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Box B Address where your mail ballot is to be sent
Complete if different from your Box A address

Name of Institution (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number (applicable for Box C, Category 3) _____

Box C Mail ballot categories (Check one)

I certify that I am eligible for mail ballot on the following basis:

- 1. I am incapacitated to such an extent that it would be an undue hardship to vote at the polls because of illness, mental or physical disability, blindness or a serious impairment of mobility. I want my mail ballot to be sent to the address listed in **Box A or Box B**.
- 2. I am confined in a hospital, convalescent home, nursing home, rest home, or similar institution within the State of Rhode Island. I understand that my ballot will be brought to me by a bipartisan pair of election officials from the State Board of Elections before election day at the facility listed in **Box B**.
- 3. I am employed or in service intimately connected with military operations or because I am a spouse or dependent of such person, and I am a limited votes citizen who will be outside the United States. If **Box B** is not complete, my mail ballot will be mailed to my local board of canvassers. Please clearly print an email address where you can be contacted regarding your ballot status.
- 4. I may not be able to be away from my place of my city/town on the day of the election. I want my mail ballot to be sent to the address listed in **Box A or Box B**. If you request that your ballot be sent to your local board of canvassers, please indicate the address in **Box B**.

Box D Oath of voter and signature

- I declare that all of the information I have provided on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
- I am a qualified registered voter and the requester of a mail ballot.
- I further state that I am not a qualified voter of any other city/town or state and have not claimed and do not intend to claim the right to vote in any other city/town or state.
- If unable to sign name because of physical incapacity or otherwise, applicant shall make their mark "X".

Full Signature of Voter: _____

X _____

For Official Use Only:

Date Received: _____

Accepted by: _____

Precinct: _____

Your application must be received by the date listed here.

Fill out with your home address (where you are registered to vote).

Fill out the address where you want to receive your mail ballot (if different than address in Box A).

If you are unable to vote on Election Day for ANY reason, check this box.

Your signature here will be compared to the signature in your voter record. If you think your signature has changed, please contact your local board of canvassers

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I need a Spanish mail ballot application?

Registered voters in Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket will receive English and Spanish mail ballot applications per Voting Rights Act guidelines. Spanish applications are also available online at vote.ri.gov.

How do I check my voter information?

Go to vote.ri.gov! This website is Rhode Island's one-stop shop for elections information. Use it to register to vote online, change your party affiliation, access elections information, and more.

If you know someone who wants to check their information without internet access, have them call (401) 222-2340.

I recently moved but didn't update my voter registration. Can I still vote by mail?

You should go to vote.ri.gov to check your voter registration information. If your address is not accurate, you may update your voter information online. You should also contact your local board of canvassers to see if you are eligible to apply for a mail ballot from your new address for the next election.

How do I request a mail ballot so I can vote from home?

Mail ballot applications are available two ways. You can download an application at vote.ri.gov and print it out or, if you don't have access to a printer, you can request a printed application from your local board of canvassers, located in your city/town hall.

When applying for a mail ballot, can we put multiple applications into one return envelope?

Each voter applying for a mail ballot must fill out their own application. You may mail back multiple applications in one envelope. You must fill out an application for each election you plan to vote with a mail ballot.

What happens if I make a mistake filling out my mail ballot application?

You can print another application from vote.ri.gov or call your local board of canvassers to have one mailed to you.

What happens after I send back my mail ballot application?

Your application will be verified by your local board of canvassers by comparing your signature on the application with the signature on file from your voter registration record. Once verified, a mail ballot will be sent to the address in Box A (unless you filled out a different mailing address in Box B).

The infographic on page 4 is a helpful tool that outlines the vote-by-mail process in Rhode Island!

When will I receive my mail ballot?

Go to vote.ri.gov to track the status of your mail ballot. If you have questions regarding the status of your application or mail ballot, please contact your local board of canvassers.

I received my mail ballot, now what?

Your mail ballot will arrive with detailed instructions for filling it out and returning. It is important to follow each step carefully to ensure your vote will be counted.

When do I need to return my mail ballot?

All mail ballots must be received by the State Board of Elections by 8 p.m. on Election Day. We encourage voters to allow at least three mailing days to ensure their ballot is received on time.

If you are concerned your ballot won't make it in time using the US Postal Service, you may drop your completed mail ballot in the sealed envelopes in any of the secure 24-hour drop boxes located around the state by 8 p.m. on election day.

Should I let someone else deliver my mail ballot to the Board of Elections?

Every mail ballot includes a postage paid return envelope so voters can easily return their mail ballot for free. If you don't want to mail your ballot, you can hand-deliver it to the Board of Elections, drop it in a secure 24-hour drop box, or you can give it to someone you trust to return for you.

Never rely on a stranger to return your mail ballot.

Won't you know who I vote for if I vote by mail? How is my vote kept private?

Your mail ballot must be inserted into a "Mail Ballot Certificate" envelope and then in the postage paid return envelope. Elections officials will open the postage paid return envelope and the signature on your "Mail Ballot Certificate" envelope will be matched to the signature on your mail ballot application.

Once that signature has been verified, your ballot will be removed from the certificate envelope and immediately inserted into a voting machine. This ensures your vote is kept private.

What happens if I make a mistake filling it out, or if my ballot is damaged?

Call our Elections Division at (401) 222-2340 or email elections@sos.ri.gov to request a new one.

I mailed back my ballot. How can I check that it was received?

You can track your mail ballot at vote.ri.gov.

What should I do if I want to vote by mail but the mail ballot process is difficult for me due to my disability?

Contact our Elections Division at (401) 222-2340 or Disability Rights Rhode Island at (401) 831-3150 for assistance.

I applied for a mail ballot but have changed my mind and would like to vote at a polling place. Am I allowed to do so?

If you applied for a mail ballot, you should complete the process by mail. Any voter who applies for a mail ballot and attempts to vote in person will be required to vote a provisional ballot. The provisional ballot will be returned to the local board of canvassers where election officials will determine if you have already cast a mail ballot or if the provisional ballot should be counted.

Voting more than once is a felony.

If someone loses their ballot and gets another one, how will you know they didn't vote twice?

Our office notifies the Board of Elections that a second ballot is being mailed. We also mark the envelope so the Board of Elections can track the ballot. There is a barcode on each envelope that is scanned when the ballot is returned. If someone votes twice, it will be detected and prevented when the Board of Elections scans the ballot envelope.

Similarly, it will be detected and prevented if someone votes by mail and tries to vote again at a polling place.

How do you ensure that someone doesn't vote using someone else's ballot?

Signatures are compared in two steps of the vote-by-mail process. The signature on your mail ballot application will be compared to the signature on file at your local board of canvassers. When you return your voted ballot, the signature on your ballot envelope will be matched to the signature on your mail ballot application.

It is a felony to fill out a mail ballot application or a mail ballot fraudulently.

What if I don't want to vote by mail, but I can't vote on Election Day either?

Rhode Island voters now have the option to vote early in person at their local city or town hall during business hours in the 20 days leading up to Election Day.

Early in person voting is very similar to voting at a polling place. You will check in by scanning your photo ID into an electronic poll book. You will receive a ballot, fill out your ballot, and insert your completed ballot into a voting machine.

What if I don't want to vote in person, but I missed the mail ballot application deadline?

If you are unable to vote in person, you may still request an emergency mail ballot from your local board of canvassers.

Contact your elections officials

RI Department of State Elections Division

148 West River Street
Providence, RI 02904
401-222-2340
elections@sos.ri.gov

RI Board of Elections

2000 Plainfield Pike, Suite A
Cranston, RI 02921
401-222-2345
boe.elections@elections.ri.gov

Local Boards of Canvassers

Barrington Town Hall
283 County Rd. 02806
247-1900 x1

Bristol Town Hall
10 Court St. 02809
253-7000

Burrillville Town Hall
105 Harrisville Main St.
Harrisville 02830
568-4300

Central Falls City Hall
580 Broad St. 02863
727-7450

Charlestown Town Hall
4540 South County Trl. 02813
364-1200

Coventry Town Hall
1670 Flat River Rd. 02816
822-9150

Cranston City Hall
869 Park Ave. 02910
780-3128

Cumberland Town Hall
45 Broad St. 02864
475-9040

East Greenwich Town Hall
125 Main St.,
P.O. Box 111 02818
886-8603

East Providence City Hall
145 Taunton Ave. 02914
435-7502

Exeter Town Hall
675 Ten Rod Rd. 02822
294-2287

Foster Town Hall
181 Howard Hill Rd. 02825
392-9200 x1

Glocester Town Hall
1145 Putnam Pike
P.O. Box B, Chepachet 02814
568-6206 x0

Hopkinton Town Hall
1 Town House Rd. 02833
377-7777

Jamestown Town Hall
93 Narragansett Ave. 02835
423-9801

Johnston Town Hall
1385 Hartford Ave. 02919
553-8856

Lincoln Town Hall
100 Old River Rd.
P.O. Box 100 02865
333-1140

Little Compton Town Hall
40 Commons
P.O. Box 226 02837
635-4400

Middletown Town Hall
350 East Main Rd. 02842
849-5540

Narragansett Town Hall
25 Fifth Ave. 02882
782-0625

Newport City Hall
43 Broadway 02840
845-5386

New Shoreham Town Hall
16 Old Town Rd.
P.O. Box 220 02807
466-3200

North Kingstown Town Hall
100 Fairway Dr. 02852
268-1553

North Providence Town Hall
2000 Smith St. 02911
232-0900 x234

North Smithfield Town Hall
83 Green St. 02896
767-2200 x116

Pawtucket City Hall
137 Roosevelt Ave. 02860
722-1637

Portsmouth Town Hall
2200 East Main Rd. 02871
683-3157

Providence City Hall
25 Dorrance St.
Room 102 02903
421-0495

Richmond Town Hall
5 Richmond Townhouse Rd.
Wyoming 02898
539-9000 x9

Scituate Town Hall
195 Danielson Pike
P.O. Box 328,
North Scituate 02857
647-2822 x1

Smithfield Town Hall
64 Farnum Pike, 02917
233-1000 x116

**South Kingstown
Town Hall**
180 High St.
Wakefield 02879
789-9331 x1231

Tiverton Town Hall
343 Highland Rd. 02878
625-6703

Warren Town Hall
514 Main St. 02885
245-7340 x4

Warwick City Hall
3275 Post Rd. 02886
738-2010

**West Greenwich
Town Hall**
280 Victory Hwy. 02817
392-3800 x108

**West Warwick Town
Hall**
1170 Main St. 02893
827-9030

Westerly Town Hall
45 Broad St. 02891
348-2503

Woonsocket City Hall
169 Main St.
P.O. Box B 02895
767-9221



Elections Hotline: 211