

**TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN, RHODE ISLAND
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
ACTS RELATING TO ELECTIONS – PRIMARY ELECTION DATES**

WHEREAS, to meet Federal regulations and to ensure that service men and women stationed all over the world have an opportunity to receive, cast and return election ballots in time for state and federal elections in November, the RI General Assembly amended RIGL Sec. 17-15-1, to require primary elections to be held on the 8th Tuesday preceding biennial state elections; and

WHEREAS, in most years, this change will not affect municipalities financially; however, in some years, such as 2020 and 2026, when the primary will fall on the day after Labor Day, there will be a major financial expense to municipalities, especially those municipalities with a large number of polling places to set up; and

WHEREAS, with set-ups the day before elections, the overtime for employees working on a holiday will add many thousands of dollars to municipal budgets around the state; and

WHEREAS, to eliminate these added costs, legislation has been introduced in the general assembly which would move the September primary to Wednesday in the years the primary is to be held during the same week as Labor Day; and

WHEREAS, the Charlestown Town Council believes that this legislation is in the best interest of the Town of Charlestown.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Charlestown Town Council, does hereby support 2020- H 7430, 2020 – H 7480, 2020 – S 2285 and any other bills which move the Primary to Wednesday if it is held in the same week as Labor Day, and urges the Charlestown delegation to the General Assembly to work diligently for its passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized to provide a copy of this resolution to the Town of Charlestown's representatives in the R.I. General Assembly and to all municipalities within the State of Rhode Island.

The RESOLUTION shall take effect upon passage.

By resolution of the Charlestown Town Council at a meeting held on March 9, 2020.



Amy Rose Weinreich, CMC Town Clerk

