

Town of South Kingstown

Resolution of the Town Council

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, RIGL Sec. 17-20-2.2 requires that all emergency mail ballots, including those cast in private at the local board of canvassers, shall be received by the local board not later than four o'clock (4:00) p.m. on the last day preceding the date of the election; 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

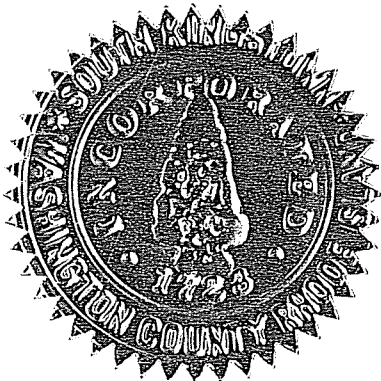
WHEREAS, with set-ups and emergency ballot deadlines the day before elections, the overtime for employees working on a holiday will add many thousands of dollars to municipal budgets around the state; and

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 South Kingstown Town Council believes that this legislation is in the best interest of the Town of South Kingstown.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of South Kingstown does hereby support 2020-H7430, 2020-H7480, 2020-S2285 and any other bills which move the primary to Wednesday if it is held in the same week as Labor Day, and urges our local representatives to the General Assembly to work diligently for their passage.

Adopted March 9, 2020



ATTEST:

Susan M. Flynn

Susan M. Flynn, Town Clerk