

**THE CITY OF WARWICK
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

NO..... DATE.....

APPROVED.....MAYOR

**RESOLUTION RESPECTUFLLY REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF
ELECTIONS TO REVIEW METHODS TO ENHANCE ELECTION FAIRNESS AND
SECURITY, INCLUDING TRANSPARENCY IN THE CERTIFICATION OF
ELECTION BALLOTS**

Resolved that,

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Warwick are matters of paramount importance to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the right to vote in free and fair elections is fundamental to American democracy; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 17-8-5(a)(2), local canvassing authorities “shall have and exercise the functions, powers, and duties of the town council concerning nominations, elections, registration of voters and canvassing rights, the preparing and correcting of voting lists, and other related matters, which powers are transferred to the local board”; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 17-6-3, the secretary of state is responsible for the arrangement, preparation, printing, and provision of all ballots used at any election; and

WHEREAS, in preparing for an election, the department of state elections division provides ballot proofs and a checklist of items for local boards of canvassers to review for accuracy prior to certification; and

WHEREAS, at a recent City election, ballot proofs were inaccurately certified by the local board of canvassers with the placement of a candidate on ballots that had not qualified pursuant to state election law; and

WHEREAS, a limited and secure opportunity for public inspection of ballot proofs prior to certification by the local canvassing board, either in person or electronically, may have identified the error prior to certification; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 17-7-5(a)(1), the state board of elections shall “exercise general supervision of the administration of the election law by local boards”; and

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2 WHEREAS, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 17-7-5(c), the state board of elections has the authority
3 to make any rules, regulations, and directives necessary to fulfill the objects and purposes of state
4 elections laws; and

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6 WHEREAS, as Louis Brandeis wrote in *Other People's Money* that “Sunlight is said to be
7 the best of disinfectants; electric light the most efficient policeman”; and

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9 WHEREAS, the Warwick City Council desires that the state board of elections evaluate
10 election protocols, including ballot certification, to enhance transparency in and the security of
11 state elections.

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13 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Warwick City Council hereby
14 respectfully requests the state board of elections to review methods to enhance election fairness
15 and security, including transparency in the certification of election ballots.

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17 The City Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the members of
18 the state board of elections, the department of state elections division, the members of the Warwick
19 Board of Canvassers, the elections director, and the Mayor.

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21 This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.

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23 SPONSORED BY: COUNCILMAN LADOUCEUR

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25 COMMITTEE: INTERGOVERNMENTAL
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