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## **ACLU OF RI POSITION: SUPPORT**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF 22-S 2216,  
JOINT RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH TO THE ELECTORS A  
PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE –  
PERSONS ENTITLED TO VOTE  
February 15, 2022**

The ACLU of RI supports this bill, which would eliminate the state Constitution's onerous and archaic requirement that bars individuals from voting in an election (except for President) unless they have registered at least 30 days in advance. In this day and age, a 30-day registration window is simply an unnecessary and significant barrier to voting opportunities.

As an organization committed to ensuring that all qualified individuals have expansive, appropriate, and equitable opportunities for participation in the franchise, we believe that this amendment would allow the state to both modernize the voting process and make it more convenient and accessible for Rhode Island residents. Even as Rhode Island maintains a 30-day registration time frame, over 20 states have *same-day* registration, including a majority of the New England states, demonstrating how archaic this constitutional provision is.

The modernization of Rhode Island's electoral process should include measures which maximize the ability for voter participation, and this amendment would allow this to happen. It is worth emphasizing that this resolution would not implement a shorter registration period on its own, but its passage would offer the General Assembly the opportunity to consider it in the future, a step that the ACLU fully supports.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.