

ACLU OF RHODE ISLAND CANDIDATE SURVEY 2022

SECRETARY OF STATE

Thank you in advance for participating in our candidate survey. Please respond to the 7 questions below. If you wish to offer explanatory comments to any of the questions, space is available at the end of this questionnaire. If you would like clarification about the ACLU's position on any of these issues, we encourage you to contact our office or visit our web site at www.riaclu.org for more information.

*You can return the survey by email to riaclu@riaclu.org, by fax to (401) 831-7175, or by mail to ACLU of RI – 128 Dorrance St., Suite 400 – Providence, RI 02903 **Please return by Monday, August 15, 2022.***

Name Stephanie Beaute

1. Do you support a constitutional amendment allowing for same day voter registration?

YES X NO _____

2. "Prison gerrymandering" is a term given to the practice of counting inmates, for purposes of drawing voting districts, as residents of their place of incarceration, rather than their home address from which they otherwise must vote. Do you support legislation that would eliminate prison gerrymandering in Rhode Island?

YES X NO _____

3. Any voter who goes to the wrong polling place on election day is given a provisional ballot, but only their votes for federal office are counted. Do you support legislation that would provide for counting votes cast on provisional ballots for all offices for which the voter is legally eligible to vote?

YES X NO _____

4. Do you support the repeal of the state's photo "Voter ID" statute?

YES X NO _____

5. Do you support requiring major public bodies in holding in-person meetings to allow for public attendance and participation remotely as well?

YES NO

6. The Attorney General's office is currently charged with the duty of interpreting and enforcing the Open Meetings Act and the Access to Public Records Act. In light of the Secretary of State's involvement with public records maintenance and its responsibility for maintaining a web site of all open meetings, do you support moving enforcement of these laws to the office of the Secretary of State?

YES NO

7. What changes to improve the Access to Public Records Act and the Open Meetings Act would you actively support to promote government accountability and transparency?

ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

- Passed and signed into law in 2013.
- Not much to the law itself, it is straightforward with its definition.
 - Would look to update it with a post COVID-19 perspective.
 - Include discussions surrounding DHS (Department of Human Services) on how to update and modernize the legislation.
 - Lack of inclusivity in its wording.
 - Resource should be readily available and accessible online access should also encompass disabilities and inclusive of that once uploaded, as some people might find its current state difficult to interpret.
 - An observation the page is not user friendly, too many clicks to access the material in question.
 - A concern is the bureaucracy around paying .15 for a copy and to learn that you can be denied the requested records that are in fact public.

- al for copies of requested

OPEN MEETINGS ACT

- RI Gen. Laws 42-46-3
- Include in legislation the maintenance of a hybrid option for all.
 - This means that meetings cannot commence until it is live and active (include audio and visual)
 - Online presence should not be an afterthought and be engaged and encourage active constituent participation; this will help have an inclusive approach to drafting any future legislation.
- Modernized like the suggestions outlined above which include but not limited inclusive language.
- Allow for the “minutes” and recordings easy to locate for members of the general public.
- Accessibility and availability example:
 - QR codes to be placed on the municipality calendars that allows direct access to constituents.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS