

2019 -- S 0628

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

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A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS - ELECTIVE MEETINGS

Introduced By: Senators Goldin, Euer, DiPalma, Algiere, and Lynch Prata

Date Introduced: March 14, 2019

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

(Board of Elections)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 17-18-10 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-18 entitled "Elective
2 Meetings" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-18-10. Time of opening of polls.**

4 (a) Elective meetings in the cities and towns named in this section shall be opened for the
5 purpose of voting at the hours specified for each particular city or town as designated in the
6 specific time as follows:

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|
| 7 | (1) Barrington | Polls open at 7 a.m. |
| 8 | (2) Bristol | Polls open at 7 a.m. |
| 9 | (3) Burrillville | Polls open at 7 a.m. |
| 10 | (4) Central Falls | Polls open at 7 a.m. |
| 11 | (5) Charlestown | Polls open at 7 a.m. |
| 12 | | for the biennial general election |
| 13 | | and 9 a.m. for all other elections |
| 14 | (6) Coventry | Polls open at 7 a.m. |
| 15 | (7) Cranston | Polls open at 7 a.m. |
| 16 | (8) Cumberland | Polls open at 7 a.m. |
| 17 | (9) East Greenwich | Polls open at 7 a.m. |
| 18 | (10) East Providence | Polls open at 7 a.m. |
| 19 | (11) Exeter | Polls open at 7 a.m. |

1	(12) Foster	Polls open at 7 a.m.
2	(13) Glocester	Polls open at 7 a.m.
3	(14) Hopkinton	Polls open at 7 a.m.
4	(15) Jamestown	Polls open at 7 a.m.
5		for the biennial general election
6		and 8 a.m. for all other elections
7	(16) Johnston	Polls open at 7 a.m.
8	(17) Lincoln	Polls open at 7:00 a.m.
9	(18) Little Compton	Polls open at 7 a.m.
10	(19) Middletown	Polls open at 7 a.m.
11		and 7 a.m. for Presidential Elections only
12	(20) Narragansett	Polls open at 7 a.m.
13	(21) Newport	Polls open at 7 a.m.
14	(22) New Shoreham	Polls open at 9 a.m.
15	(23) North Kingstown	Polls open at 7 a.m.
16	(24) North Providence	Polls open at 7 a.m.
17	(25) North Smithfield	Polls open at 7 a.m.
18	(26) Pawtucket	Polls open at 7 a.m.
19	(27) Portsmouth	Polls open at 7 a.m.
20	(28) Providence	Polls open at 7 a.m.
21	(29) Richmond	Polls open at 7 a.m.
22	(30) Scituate	Polls open at 7 a.m.
23	(31) Smithfield	Polls open at 7 a.m.
24	(32) South Kingstown	Polls open at 7 a.m.
25	(33) Tiverton	Polls open at 7 a.m.
26	(34) Warren	Polls open at 7 a.m.
27	(35) Warwick	Polls open at 7 a.m.
28	(36) Westerly	Polls open at 7 a.m.
29	(37) West Greenwich	Polls open at 7 a.m.
30	(38) West Warwick	Polls open at 7 a.m.
31	(39) Woonsocket	Polls open at 7 a.m.
32	(b)	In all special or primary elections in the towns of Hopkinton, Westerly, and Little
33		Compton, polls shall open at 9:00 a.m.
34	(c)	In all presidential preference primaries in the town of New Shoreham, polls shall open

1 at 12:00 p.m.

2 (d) ~~In all primary elections in all cities and towns, polls may open at 7:00 a.m.~~ Notice
3 shall be given and posted by the local board.

4 SECTION 2. Section 17-20-16 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-20 entitled "Mail
5 Ballots" is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 **17-20-16. Time of casting vote.**

7 Mail ballots may be cast in the manner provided by law on or before election day;
8 provided, that no mail ballot shall be counted unless it is received by the state board not later than
9 the time prescribed by § 17-18-11 for the closing of polling places on election day, except ballots
10 cast under the provisions of § 17-20-6.1, which shall be counted if received by the state board by
11 four o'clock p.m. (4:00) on the third day following a primary or four o'clock p.m. (4:00) on the
12 seventh day following an election.

13 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO ELECTIONS - ELECTIVE MEETINGS

1 This act would mandate that all polling places in all cities or towns, except New
2 Shoreham, would open at seven (7:00 a.m.) It would also provide that ballots cast by citizens who
3 are covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) and other
4 citizens residing outside the United States shall be counted when received by four o'clock p.m.
5 (4:00) on the third day following a primary or four o'clock p.m. (4:00) on the seventh day
6 following an election.

7 This act would take effect upon passage.

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