

2011 -- S 0341

LC00813

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

A N A C T

RELATING TO ELECTIONS

Introduced By: Senators Bates, Felag, Crowley, Tassoni, and Sosnowski

Date Introduced: February 16, 2011

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 17-18-10 and 17-18-11 of the General Laws in Chapter 17-18
2 entitled "Elective Meetings" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **17-18-10. Time of opening of polls. --** (a) Elective meetings in the cities and towns
4 named in this section shall be opened for the purpose of voting at the hours specified for each
5 particular city or town as designated in the specific time as follows:

6 (1) Barrington Polls open at 7 a.m.

7 (2) Bristol Polls open at 7 a.m.

8 (3) Burrillville Polls open at 7 a.m. for the biennial general election and 9 a.m. for all
9 other elections.

10 (4) Central Falls Polls open at 7 a.m.

11 (5) Charlestown Polls open at 7 a.m. for the biennial general election and 9 a.m. for all
12 other elections.

13 (6) Coventry Polls open at 7 a.m.

14 (7) Cranston Polls open at 7 a.m.

15 (8) Cumberland Polls open at 7 a.m.

16 (9) East Greenwich Polls open at 7 a.m.

17 (10) East Providence Polls open at 7 a.m.

18 (11) Exeter Polls open at 7 a.m.

19 (12) Foster Polls open at 7 a.m.

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

1 **17-18-11. Time of closing of polls.** -- Elective meetings in all cities and towns shall be
2 continuously kept open for voting until ~~9 p.m.~~ 8 p.m.; provided, that any qualified voter who is
3 within the building in which the elective meeting is being conducted and is waiting in line to vote
4 at ~~9 p.m.~~ 8 p.m. shall be entitled to cast his or her vote. When all persons entitled to vote have
5 been afforded a reasonable opportunity to do so, the polls shall be closed; provided, that the city
6 council of the city of Pawtucket shall have the authority, solely in local elections, to close the
7 polls one hour earlier than set forth in this section.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would amend the provisions of the general laws to provide that all voting polls in
2 the state open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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