



May 21, 2021

Chair Barry R. Finegold	Chair John J. Lawn
24 Beacon Street	24 Beacon Street
Room 507	Room 445
Boston, MA 02133	Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Finegold and Chair Lawn,

On behalf of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), I respectfully urge the Joint Committee on Election Laws to favorably report SD 1002/HD 1536, An Act Fostering Voter Opportunities, Trust, Equity and Security (The VOTES Act) sponsored by Senator Creem and Representative Lawn out of the Committee for quick action by the Legislature. We are heartened by the multitude of smart and effective approaches offered by our public officials this year and share the overwhelming recognition that swift action is necessary.

Embedded in JCRC's mission is the obligation to promote an American society which is democratic, pluralistic and just. We support policies that (1) identify and remove barriers to and increase voter registration and voter turnout and (2) ensure the security and sustainability of our election system infrastructure.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the inadequacies of our voting system and created an immediate need to address these issues during the 2020 elections. Now, after record turnout and safe elections in 2020, we have the opportunity to make these important reforms permanent ahead of the 2021 municipal elections.

The Commonwealth must act to expand these reforms including expanded early voting options, mail-in voting, same day registration, and corrected automatic voter registration. Therefore, the JCRC and our member organizations respectfully request that the Committee report SD 1002/HD 1536 out favorably as quickly as possible. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions at NNadich@jcrctboston.org

Respectfully,

Nahma Nadich

Deputy Director, JCRC of Greater Boston

cc: Joint Committee on Election Laws