

Submitted by Joseph Iannucci and Sharon Dougherty
57 Onondaga Rd, Narragansett, RI. 02882

We support the proposal for section 2 A from the 2024 charter committee:

All persons who reside in the Bonnet Shores Fire District and who are duly registered with and eligible to vote in general or special election in the Town of Narragansett, using their address within Bonnet Shores, shall have the right to vote for all offices to be elected and on all questions submitted to the electors of the Bonnet Shores Fire District.

For the following reasons:

- 1) If we align the BSFD voter registry with the Town of Narragansett, the state legislature is unlikely to challenge this section.
- 2) By using the town's voter registry, the fire district is relieved of the tasks related to maintaining its own registry.
- 3) By using the town's voter registry, the fire district avoids having to maintain and potentially update definitions of who can vote. For example:

At what age can someone vote, perhaps between 20 to 80 years old?

Does a voter need to be a US citizen?

Can convicted felons vote?

Are there a minimum number of days that the voter must spend in the fire district?

ETC.

Note: Interested parties who are not eligible to vote can still participate by supporting and promoting candidates and policies which they believe align with their values and interests. This is common in our nation.

One additional thought: If in our quest to find common ground for voting we see significant need to allow voting by seasonal residents or other property owners,

the solution to end this on going conflict may be to organize as an owners' association rather than a fire district. (The elephant in the room.)