



Samantha Suman &lt;ssuman@citizensforethics.org&gt;

## Re: [EXTERNAL]: Rhode Island's consideration of the 22nd amendment

4 messages

**Kate Wells** <kwells@sos.ri.gov>

Tue, Oct 7, 2025 at 9:54 AM

To: Donald Sherman <dsherman@citizensforethics.org>

Cc: Samantha Suman <ssuman@citizensforethics.org>

Hello Donald,

I have been able to confirm the following legislative actions related to RI and the ratification of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment:

- Joint Resolution of Congress – Proposed Amendment & accompanying United States Department of State transmittal letter, Mar. 25 1947 - This letter is available at the RI State Archives.
- House Resolution 1036 was introduced by Rep. Kiernan on April 9, 1947 - "Resolution relative to the proposed amendment to the constitution of the United States relating to the terms of office of the president". It was referred to House Committee on Judiciary. No action was taken by the Committee and there is no reference to a resolution being introduced in the Senate.
- House Resolution 0614 was introduced by Rep. Goff on January 30, 1951 - "Resolution ratifying the proposed amendment to the constitution of the United States and known as the 22nd amendment to the constitution of the United States relating to the terms of office of the president". It was referred to House Committee on Judiciary. There is a note in our legislative index that the committee met on 3/29/1951. No action was taken by the Committee and there is no reference to a resolution being introduced in the Senate.

Rhode Island does have a history of not ratifying United States constitutional amendments. You can read a bit about that [here](#) and in the attached essay titled "The Independent State" (1981) from our State Library collections.

Unfortunately, the records of legislative committees are not required to be sent to RI State Archives and so we do not have any record of the committee meetings or hearings from that period.

Lastly, the best resource for historical context of legislative action is usually the Providence Journal newspaper. It seems likely that there may have been coverage in both 1947 and 1951 of the resolutions that were introduced. We do not have access to their full historical archive, however, that database is available at the following libraries: Rhode Island Historical Society Research Center, University of RI Library, Rhode Island College Library, Providence College Library and Community College of RI Libraries. The Providence Public Library also houses the Providence Journal and Evening Bulletin newspapers on microfilm and have a very comprehensive index to the paper in the 20th century.

If I'm able to locate any additional resources, I'll be in touch.

Best, Kate



Kate Wells

State Librarian

RI Department of State | Secretary of State Gregg M. Amore

Email: [kwells@sos.ri.gov](mailto:kwells@sos.ri.gov) | Website: [www.sos.ri.gov](http://www.sos.ri.gov) | Twitter: [@RISecState](https://twitter.com/RISecState)

State House - [82 Smith Street., Providence, RI 02903](#) | (401) 330-3184

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**From:** Donald Sherman <[dsherman@citizensforethics.org](mailto:dsherman@citizensforethics.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 6, 2025 12:45 PM  
**To:** Kate Wells <[kwells@sos.ri.gov](mailto:kwells@sos.ri.gov)>  
**Cc:** Samantha Suman <[ssuman@citizensforethics.org](mailto:ssuman@citizensforethics.org)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]: Rhode Island's consideration of the 22nd amendment

You don't often get email from [dsherman@citizensforethics.org](mailto:dsherman@citizensforethics.org). [Learn why this is important](#)

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the RI Department of State. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi:

Thanks again for speaking to me just now. Per our conversation, I am trying to track down if the RI legislature took any action or if the Governor or any state legislators had much to say about it. I know from my research that RI was among the states that did not ratify the amendment, but I was trying to figure out if there was more there. Thanks!

Donald

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Donald K. Sherman  
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington  
[www.citizensforethics.org](http://www.citizensforethics.org)

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1120K

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**Donald Sherman** <[dsherman@citizensforethics.org](mailto:dsherman@citizensforethics.org)>  
To: Kate Wells <[kwells@sos.ri.gov](mailto:kwells@sos.ri.gov)>  
Cc: Samantha Suman <[ssuman@citizensforethics.org](mailto:ssuman@citizensforethics.org)>

Tue, Oct 7, 2025 at 10:01 AM

Wow. Thanks a ton for the helpful information.

Donald K. Sherman  
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington  
[www.citizensforethics.org](http://www.citizensforethics.org)  
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**Kate Wells** <[kwells@sos.ri.gov](mailto:kwells@sos.ri.gov)>  
To: Donald Sherman <[dsherman@citizensforethics.org](mailto:dsherman@citizensforethics.org)>  
Cc: Samantha Suman <[ssuman@citizensforethics.org](mailto:ssuman@citizensforethics.org)>

Tue, Oct 7, 2025 at 11:23 AM

Hello Donald,

My colleague at Providence Public Library was able to search their Providence Journal on your behalf. I've attached the news articles that she found.

Best, Kate



Kate Wells

State Librarian

RI Department of State | Secretary of State Gregg M. Amore

Email: [kwells@sos.ri.gov](mailto:kwells@sos.ri.gov) | Website: [www.sos.ri.gov](http://www.sos.ri.gov) | Twitter: [@RISecState](https://twitter.com/RISecState)

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**From:** Kate Wells <[kwells@sos.ri.gov](mailto:kwells@sos.ri.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 7, 2025 9:54 AM

**To:** Donald Sherman <[dsherman@citizensforethics.org](mailto:dsherman@citizensforethics.org)>

**Cc:** Samantha Suman <[ssuman@citizensforethics.org](mailto:ssuman@citizensforethics.org)>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL]: Rhode Island's consideration of the 22nd amendment

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**6 attachments**



**News\_Article\_\_Providence\_Journal\_published\_as\_The\_Providence\_Journal\_\_April\_10\_1947\_\_p6.pdf**  
132K



**News\_Article\_\_Providence\_Journal\_published\_as\_The\_Providence\_Journal\_\_February\_9\_1951\_\_p4.pdf**  
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**News\_Article\_\_Providence\_Journal\_published\_as\_The\_Providence\_Journal\_\_February\_27\_1951\_\_p1.pdf**  
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**News\_Article\_\_Providence\_Journal\_published\_as\_The\_Providence\_Sunday\_Journal\_\_February\_25\_1951\_\_p72.pdf**  
569K

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**Donald Sherman** <[dsherman@citizensforethics.org](mailto:dsherman@citizensforethics.org)>

Tue, Oct 7, 2025 at 11:26 AM

To: Kate Wells <[kwells@sos.ri.gov](mailto:kwells@sos.ri.gov)>

Cc: Samantha Suman <[ssuman@citizensforethics.org](mailto:ssuman@citizensforethics.org)>

That's awesome. Thanks a ton!!!

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