

## The Voting Case Settlement

The Superior Court determined that residents have a right to vote at the Annual Meeting (or any special meeting), regardless of whether they own property in the District.

To comply with that decision, the District has agreed to a settlement that and proposed judgment provides that any person residing within the District for 30 days before the Annual Meeting will be allowed to vote.

The Judge has formally signed off on the settlement and court judgment, which will follow the RI Constitution Article 2 Section 1 that reads

“Every citizen of the United States of the age of eighteen years or over who has had residence and home in this state for thirty days next preceding the time of voting, who has resided thirty days in the town or city from which such citizen desires to vote, and whose name shall be registered at least thirty days next preceding the time of voting as provided by law, shall have the right to vote”

Under the terms of the settlement and court judgment, the new 30-day resident voters would need to be registered, but there will not be time to accomplish that within the period between the Judge’s formal approval of the settlement and judgment and the normal Annual Meeting date (last Thursday in June).

In addition, the settlement provides for creation of a five-member charter review committee to be appointed by the District Council. This committee will be charged with developing amendments to the District’s statutory charter that will be in accord with the judge’s decision on issues in the voting case. **When the committee’s work is done, the proposed charter changes will have to be approved first by the General Assembly and then by all voters in the District.**

This council is committed to follow the laws of the State of RI