

“Democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part to help build what we called the Beloved Community...”

US Representative John Lewis

Civics Education for High Schools and Voter Information for Hard-to-Reach Communities

Eileen Sweeney

Director of Community Outreach & Engagement

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

NASS 2024 Summer Conference



Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State



Rhode Island
Department of State

Eileen Sweeney, RI Department of State | July
10, 2024

Secretary Amore's Civics Initiatives

- **RI Civic Leadership Program**
 - *Student Civic Liaisons*
 - *RI Civic Leadership Summit*
- **Classroom Visits** – *Themed lessons on the history of voting in the United States and civility*
- **Civic Leadership Awards** – *High schools nominate two students who have demonstrated a commitment to public service, leadership & academic achievement.*
- **Civic Education Teacher of the Year** – *Awarded annually to an outstanding Civics or Government teacher.*



Amy Russo, *The Providence Journal*





RI Civic Leadership Program

“ This experience will spark in local students a passion for lifelong civic engagement, inspiring and empowering participants to be dynamic citizens equipped to think critically, tackle challenges, and strengthen our democracy. ”

- Gregg M. Amore



Student Liaisons

Two students from **every** high school in the state

Meet **once a month** during the school year

Required to complete a **Civic Action Project**

Culminates in **3-day RI Civic Leadership Summit**



Civic Leadership in the News

Creating the RI Civic Leadership Program earned Secretary Amore **national coverage** in a USA Today article featuring "people working to keep democracy."

The article describes Secretary Amore's presentation at the **RI Civic Leadership Summit** and his commitment to "teaching the younger generation the importance of civic education."



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July Fourth's newest fireworks: Drones

High-tech flying light shows dazzle skies



Two hundred drones from Rio Shimmer's Drone Shows light the evening sky with a horse racing logo last month at the Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton, Calif. [BETHANY MOGA/REUTERS/USA TODAY](#)

Jorge L. Ortíz
The Hill

JAN FRANKS - As the organizer of a major July Fourth event in downtown Los Angeles every year, Robert

Gonzales is hardly among a crowd of 25,000 still caught in a shocking, insensitive scene to the unfortunates' misdeeds.

Gonzales and his team managing the city's 4th of July Parade took a big gamble a year ago, replacing the traditional fireworks display with what's billed as "the largest fire Fourth of July celebration in the West Coast."

The event was made possible in part by an unexpected new experience but also as a hedge against the wildfires that have loomed the region in recent years.

watching fireworks in a state of awe the drones would be received, Gonzales was gratified by the reaction as the display lit up the air by the hundreds of flying objects from looks of amazement.

"Everyone around me was getting up in the air with their phones trying to capture the moment," he said. "That made it worth it for me and made when the disaster hit, 'Oh, I think this is where we're heading, and we'll just continue to improve it.'"

Los Angeles is among a growing number of municipalities and other entities - corporations like Disney, movie studios, sports leagues - incorporating drone shows into their holiday programming.

[See DRONE SHOWS, Page 5A.](#)

Drunken boating crash set a mission

Victim turned pain into raising awareness

Paulette Trotter
The Hill

After the tragedy all too well the dangers of drinking - and especially boating - were underscored.

And she learned that lesson long before she was old enough to take a sip of liquor.

Now 27, Ortíz, who has served a national position of RACED (Responsible Against Drunk Driving) and worked with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, is vowing to make awareness of boat safety and the dangers of impaired driving, whether on land or water.

She was just 15 on July 3, 2008, when her life changed irrevocably. The scene was an idyllic jet ski on a beautiful lake near her father's home when an intoxicated boater steered his jet ski into her jet ski. She was launched 100 feet into the air, landing on her back with a broken neck and collarbone, a shattered jaw, two shattered breasts and a brain injury.

[See BOAT SAFETY, Page 5A.](#)



For these Americans, preserving it means giving back

WASHINGTON

For Joseph Alton, democracy is starting with hundreds of sixties the history of America's foundation. For Gregg Ansoie, it's teaching the younger generation the importance of civic engagement. And for John Settles and Tina Barton, democracy means ensuring election work. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, democracy is government by the people. On the ground that can look different to different people, but far sense, what they call democracy is at the heart of what they do and what they hope to protect.

[See DEMOCRACY, Page 5A.](#)



Reaching Marginalized Communities & Building an Informed Electorate



Success in Voter Outreach & Mock Elections

Full Year **2023**:
40 Outreach Events
23 Mock Elections



2024 So Far:
36 Outreach Events
14 Mock Elections



#BeAVoter

Stay Voter Ready



Keep your information up to date

Visit vote.ri.gov to update your information if you've recently moved or changed your name.



Have an acceptable photo ID

If you are voting in person, you must bring a valid photo ID to the polls.



Make a plan to vote

Decide if you'll vote by mail, early in person, or on Election Day.



401-222-2340
elections@sos.ri.gov

vote.ri.gov



Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

Voting While Trans

Gender identity should never exclude anyone from being a voter.

If you have changed your name legally and...

You do not have a License/State ID

You must update your voter registration with your legal name.

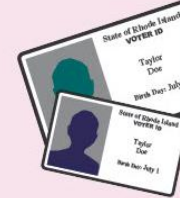
Get a free Voter ID
You can then get a free Voter ID that matches your voter registration.

You have a License/State ID

Updating your License/State ID with your new legal name will automatically update your voter record.

You will receive an acknowledgment notice from your city or town confirming your updates.

Review/Update your voter information
vote.ri.gov



If you have not legally changed your name

Get a Voter ID that better represents you!

Make an appointment with the Elections Division to get a free Voter ID that aligns with your appearance today.



Contact the Elections Division:

401-222-2340
elections@sos.ri.gov

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HEALTH CENTER
transvoteri.com



Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State



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- Arienne Orozco of Connecticut and Eileen Sweeney of Rhode Island created the **Multi-State Group** as a by-product of attending NASS 2023 Summer Conference last July 2023.
- Since August 2023, the group has met quarterly with representatives from the following Secretary of State offices: **Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont.**
- The next meeting is **Tuesday, July 30, 2024**
- Contact **Eileen Sweeney** (esweeney@sos.ri.gov) or **Arienne Orozco** (arienne.orozco@ct.gov)

