



# Welcome to SACRI'S



## 2026 Legislative Leaders' Forum *Voices of Advocacy—Anchors of Hope*



### Sponsored By:



### Featuring

*The Honorable House Speaker Joseph K. Shekarchi*  
*The Honorable Sen. Majority Leader Frank Ciccone*



# Why Older Adults Need Legislative Attention in RI

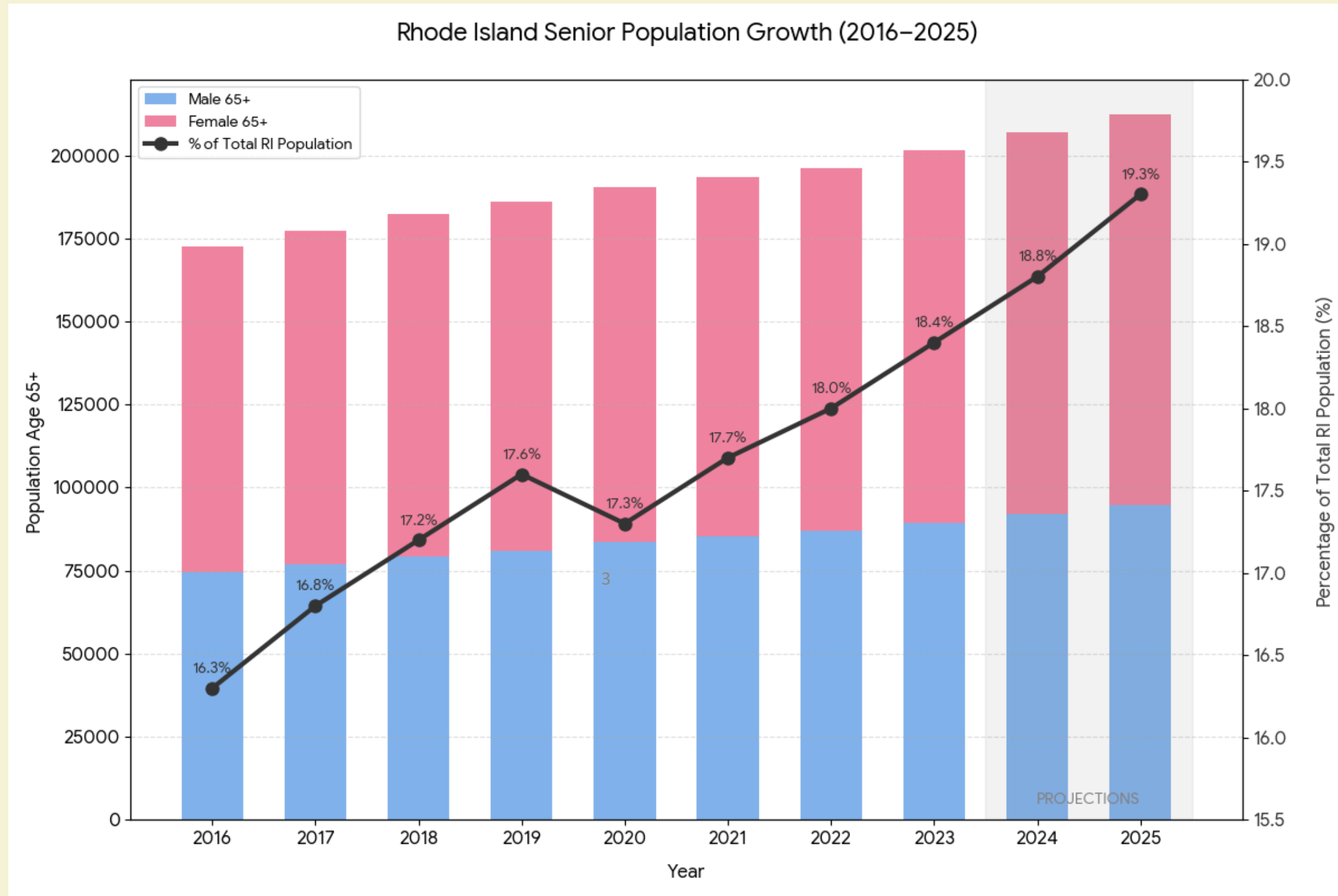
1 out of 5 persons  $\longrightarrow$  65+

 We are Older Adults!



Hear Us Roar! 

# The RI Demographic Shift



65+ Females  
24% greater  
than Males

RI'ers 85+  
among 5th  
highest  
percent in  
U.S.

# Where Do Older Rhode Islanders Live?

- 72.7% 65+ Households live in own home. (31% = housing costs burdened)
- 27.3% 65+ Households are renters (52% = housing costs burdened)
- 4% receiving long term care services in nursing homes
- Older Adult Homelessness: 321 ages 55-64 yrs; 164 ages 65+

# Older RI'ers Contribute to Civic and Community Life

## BOOST RI's Economy

### **We are Voters**

(2024 election: older voters =  
1/3 ballots cast)

### **We are Workers**

(40% workers → 55+)

### **We are Caregivers**

(est. 40,000 older adults)

### **We are Volunteers**

(est. 45,000 volunteer formally)

### **We contribute to the RI Economy**

#### **We are Taxpayers**

50+ years → \$27 Billion to RI  
Annual GNP

#### **Social Security Multiplier**

(RI Retirees SS benefits = \$3.9B;  
each \$1 in SS benefits spent in  
RI → \$2 economic output)

# Older Rler's Economic Status

- Poverty rate increased from 8.9% in 2019 to 11.2% in 2024
- Average 65+ Household Social Security Income: \$23,995
- 24% older Households have Income less than \$25,000  
(mainly Social Security)
- 22% older Households Income from \$25,000 to \$49,000

# Older RI Cost of Living

<b>Single Homeowner no mortgage, good health</b>	<b>\$28,884</b>
<b>Single renter, poor health</b>	<b>\$36,312</b>
<b>Couple, homeowner with mortgage, good health</b>	<b>\$55,068</b>
<b>Couple renter, poor health</b>	<b>\$51,264</b>

# SACRI'S

# 2026 Advocacy Priorities

*Let's Talk Affordability*



Senior Agenda Coalition  
of Rhode Island

A Beacon for RI's Older Adults & Adults with Disabilities



- Health*
- Economic Security*
- Housing*
- Community Supports*

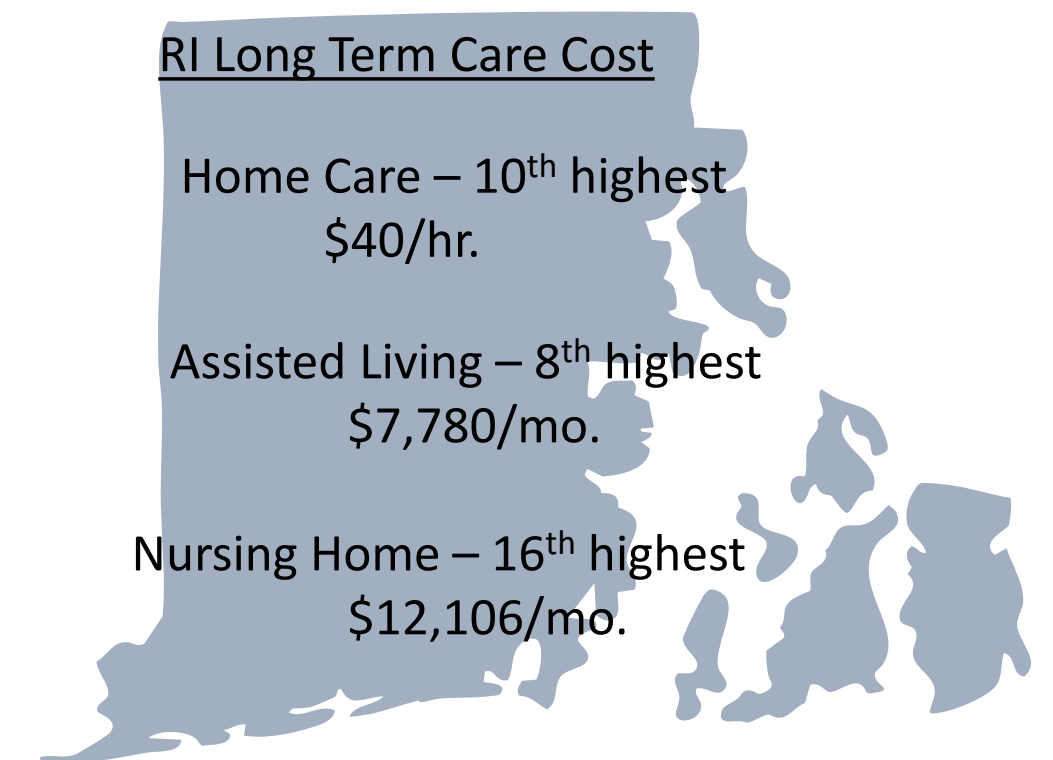


# Healthcare & Long-Term Care

## Cost, Access, Quality

### SUPPORT

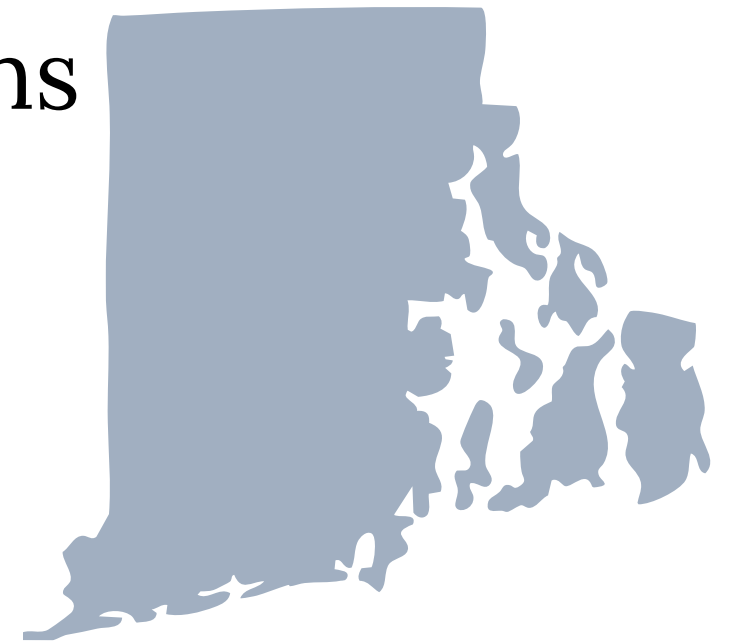
- **Medicare Savings Program - Eliminate Asset Limit**
  - Increases access - saves more folks on Medicare over \$2,400 annually in Part B Premiums
  - Helps RI Economy - Dollars pump up business as persons use \$\$ to pay for basic needs
- **Primary Care** – Support All-payer Primary Care Investment Target
- **Address Home Care worker shortage**
  - Fully Fund provider rate increases, require reports on impact
- **Fully fund nursing home COLA**
- **Add \$\$ for Long Term Care Ombudsman**



# Housing: Affordability & Access

## SUPPORT

- **Housing Bond - Fair Share for Older Adults**
  - Target 30% housing bond for special needs populations
- **Accessibility Features in New Developments**
- **Expand Property Tax Relief Program**
  - Increase income to \$50,000; Max Credit/Refund - \$850



# Community Supports

*We overwhelmingly prefer to remain living at home!!!*

## SUPPORT

- Caregiver Tax Credit – up to \$1,000
- Increase asset limit for persons getting Medicaid Homecare
- Include Homemaker Service in OHA Home Care Program
- Fund Volunteer “Aging in Place – “Village” Program
- Create Office of Elder Advocate – Protect rights of older adults living in community; provide legal assistance



On Behalf of 200,000 Older RI'ers

***LET'S ROAR***



Thank you for joining us!