SAVE THE
ARCHIVES
Our past deserves a better future

A presentation to the NASS State Heritage Committee

July 1, 2019
ABOUT THE RHODE ISLAND STATE ARCHIVES
1. Engage and empower Rhode Islanders
2. Help Rhode Islanders learn about history
3. Ensure transparency and accessibility
OUR TREASURES

More than 10 MILLION records

Accumulated over 380 YEARS

Over 3 THOUSAND online images
OUR CURRENT FACILITY
TREASURES AT RISK
SAVE THE ARCHIVES
Our past deserves a better future

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

A NEW HOME FOR:

- More than 10 million government records.
- Petitions from 2 million Rhode Islanders.
- Genealogical records dating back to 1600s.
- Priceless documents from our nation’s history.

Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State
INVESTING IN OUR HISTORY TO ADVANCE OUR ECONOMY

“Museums contribute $21 billion to the national economy and employ 400,000 Americans.”

“Museum visitors stay an average of 53% longer and spend up to 56% more than other tourists.”

Maine Archives & Museums, 2009
“State archival programs preserve and make available essential evidence documenting government actions. Without government records, elected officials cannot be held accountable.

Without these records, citizens cannot exercise their rights. Failing to maintain this documentation breaks a public trust.”

-Society of American Archivists, 2003