

2025 NHCVR Talking Points

2025 New Hampshire Campaign for Voting Rights Priority Legislation Talking Points

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Pro-Voter Legislation:

- [HB 67](#), Accessible voting devices for local elections

Anti-Voter Legislation:

Absentee Voting Restrictions: See our [SB287 Breakout Toolkit](#)

- [SB287](#), requires proof of identity or notarization to request an absentee ballot
- [SB 218](#): Requires absentee registrants provide copies of citizenship, age, domicile, and identity
- [SB213](#): requires voters who are registering via absentee ballot to provide proof of identity, domicile, age, and citizenship with their application, *as well as having it notarized*.

Restrictions on Accessible Voting Systems

- [HB613](#), Allowing cities and towns to opt out of providing Accessible Voting Systems during local elections unless a voter provides written notice of their intent to use the system at least 60 days in advance of an election

Other

- [HB464](#) (non-germane amendment) prohibiting certain candidates for political office from participating in counting ballots, enabling the use of certain personal information for determining voter eligibility, and relative to the reporting of low value campaign donations.

HB67, Accessible voting devices for local elections

NHCVR is **SUPPORTING** this bill and it is a top priority

What this bill does:

- New Hampshire has accessible voting equipment for federal elections but NOT for local elections. In 2024, the legislature passed a bill that requires towns to provide accessible voting devices for local elections and creates a pilot program where they would be provided from the Secretary of State to towns for Spring of 2025.
- HB67 would ensure that towns are able to acquire these devices from the state by requiring the Secretary of State to enter into an agreement with municipalities for the use of accessible voting devices in every local election.

Why it matters:

- Voter access is imperative not just in federal and state elections but also in local elections. New Hampshire already owns accessible voting machines and there is no justifiable reason to not make sure each town is able to use one for ALL elections.
- A voter that needs an accessible voting machine to cast a secret ballot in an election, deserves that right for EVERY election. Voters have the right to vote privately and independently.

Other Talking Points:

- The pilot program passed in 2024 to provide accessible devices for the Spring 2025 town elections is a great start – now, the legislature should continue this agreement and ensure devices are provided to towns for all future elections as well.
- Our democracy is strongest when all voters cast a ballot. Repeatedly having elections where certain voters are not able to cast a secret ballot is bad for democracy and is just wrong.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Would each municipality need to purchase new machines?

No, under this legislation the Secretary of State would bear the cost for purchasing and providing the devices to towns and cities, and each town would be responsible for the programming costs for their local elections – just as they do for their ballot counting devices, if they use them.

Q: Would this cost the state a lot of money?

No! Under federal law, all federal and state elections must have accessible voting devices – this law would expand that requirement to local elections, as well. HB67 allocates \$100,000 for

purchase of these devices if needed in addition to using existing federal funds for this purpose.

[SB 218](#), Requires absentee registrants provide copies of citizenship, age, domicile, and identity

NHCVR is **OPPOSING** this bill and it is a top priority

What this bill does:

- This bill requires that voters who are registering by absentee ballot (because they attest they are unable to register in person) also provide proof of their identity, age, domicile, and citizenship.

Why does it matter:

- Voters attest to their eligibility when they register via a sworn affidavit, punishable by penalty of perjury. **Adding additional requirements to scan, print, and send documents can disenfranchise eligible voters** – especially those with disabilities who are registering absentee because they are unable to do so in person.

SB287, requires proof of identity or notarization to request an absentee ballot

NHCVR is **OPPOSING** this bill and it is a top priority

****This bill was amended by the House Election Law committee on May 27th and these talking points reflect those updates****

What this bill does:

SB 287 imposes new hurdles on the absentee voting process by:

- Requires voters who are requesting absentee ballots show proof of identity via:
 - A copy of the voters' ID with the absentee application
 - A notarized signature on the absentee ballot application
 - Presenting an ID in person to the town or city clerk or their designee before being provided an absentee ballot

Why it matters:

- Voters attest to their eligibility when they register via a sworn affidavit, punishable by penalty of perjury. **Adding additional requirements to scan, print, and send documents, get a notary, or visit a clerk in person can disenfranchise eligible voters** – especially those with disabilities.
 - Absentee voters in New Hampshire can only vote absentee if they have an excuse, so absentee voting is already limited. Many absentee voters cast absentee ballots because they are especially those who are unable to travel outside their home, which is why they are voting absentee – those voters likely also will not be able to travel to visit a notary or travel to their clerk's offices.
- Requiring all voters to provide proof of identity when voting absentee is a burden for those who may be least likely to have access to the materials needed to scan and print – meaning those voters who need to vote absentee are disenfranchised simply because they don't have the tools to provide the right proof.

Other Talking Points:

- Granite Staters who are eligible to vote absentee deserve to be able to do so without additional burdens that would require them to prove their identity.
- Absentee ballots are already secure and have a process that includes signing an affidavit under penalty of perjury.
- Absentee voting in NH is nonpartisan. Nearly 30% of 2024 absentee voters were registered Republicans, and almost 35% were cast by undeclared voters.
- Almost 100,000 voters used absentee ballots in 2024, and all of those votes could have been at risk if SB287 was in effect.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Shouldn't voters have to prove who they are by showing an ID?

A: Absentee voting is already a secure process – and voters are required to sign under penalty of perjury on both their application form and ballot that they are casting their ballot legally . There is no evidence or cases of voters casting absentee ballots on behalf of other voters.

SB213, requires voters who are registering via absentee ballot to provide proof of identity, domicile, age, and citizenship with their application, as well as having it notarized.

What this bill does:

- This bill requires voters who are registering via absentee ballot to provide proof of identity, domicile, age, and citizenship with their application, *as well as having it notarized*.
- It also requires all absentee voters provide proof of identity when requesting an absentee ballot. This bill adds a line to the request form for a voter to include their state issued ID number, however does not include any guidance on if this is sufficient to prove identity or how voters can meet this requirement if they do not have a state issued ID.

Why it matters:

- Voters attest to their eligibility when they register via a sworn affidavit, punishable by penalty of perjury. **Adding additional requirements to scan, print, and send documents when registering can disenfranchise eligible voters** – especially those with disabilities who are registering absentee
 - Getting a notary or visiting their clerk in person is also a burden for these same voters, especially those who are unable to travel outside their home, which is why they are voting absentee
 - Voters are already sending in multiple forms of documentation if they are registering to vote absentee. Requiring a notary in addition to sending those documents in is an additional burden which in person voters do not face
- There are no records or evidence of people requesting absentee ballots in other voters' names. Adding a requirement to prove identity when requesting an absentee ballot doesn't solve any issues – it simply makes the process more difficult for voters who may have disabilities that prevent them from voting in person.
- This bill adds a provision on the absentee request form for voters to include their state issued ID number, but does not include any direction on how voters without an ID would prove their identity, or if including this information would be sufficient.

HB613, Allowing cities and towns to opt out of providing Accessible Voting Systems during local elections unless a voter provides written notice of their intent to use the system at least 60 days in advance of an election

HB 613 Violates the Legal Rights of Voters with Disabilities

- HB 613 would permit cities and towns to administer elections in ways that would directly conflict with the voting rights of individuals with disabilities guaranteed by the Americans with Disabilities Act and New Hampshire's Constitution.

Examples of these legal violations include:

- Allowing cities and towns to opt out of providing Accessible Voting Systems during local elections unless a voter provides written notice of their intent to use the system at least 60 days in advance of an election. No other voter is required to notify their town's clerk if, and how, they intend to vote at any point prior to election day.
- Shifting the responsibility for requesting the state-owned Accessible Voting System from municipalities to individual disabled voters—despite municipalities being legally responsible for running local elections. This places an additional burden on voters with disabilities and risks exposing them to intimidation or pushback from local officials, or harassment from other residents.

[HB464](#), prohibiting certain candidates for political office from participating in counting ballots, enabling the use of certain personal information for determining voter eligibility, and relative to the reporting of low value campaign donations.

What this amendment does:

- This non-germane amendment to HB464 (2025-1807s):
 - Updates the section of the law that directs the voter database records to be matched to the Department of Safety, Social Security Administration, and vital records to allow data to be entered into the voter database and used to determine voter eligibility
 - Explicitly adds that a voter can prove citizenship by proving they are registered to vote in a different town or ward in New Hampshire, and adds that in addition to confirming someone is registered to vote via the centralized voter database they can use “other official records”
 - Directs the SOS office to provide access to data from centralized voter registration records, records from the Department of Safety, and vital records to assist voters in providing their qualifications when registering to vote and the SOS will “ensure access on voting day.”
 - This amendment also includes provisions for campaign finance, which is outside the scope of work of the New Hampshire Campaign for Voting Rights

Why it matters

- This amendment attempts to create additional ways town clerks and election officials can access information voter qualifications (age, domicile, citizenship) which now must be proven with documentation, not by signing an affidavit. *However, this language does not create any funding or implementation systems to allow this information to be provided at polling places or utilized in a timely manner to help voters register*
- The vast majority of voters in NH register on election day – many polling places lack wifi, as well as the additional staff required to be able to individually look up voters when registering.
- Over 121 voters were turned away between March, April and May town meetings because the affidavit system was removed. New Hampshire clearly needs a system that will allow voters to register to vote without having documents proving citizenship and other qualifications. However, to do so the legislature must dedicate the time, effort, and expertise to create a program that will actually help as many voters as possible register – this amendment simply does not create the system to do that.

Other Talking Points:

- A quiet admission HB1569 went too far: This amendment is a tacit acknowledgment that HB1569, which eliminated affidavits and required documentation to prove citizenship, age, and domicile, went too far. Lawmakers now appear to recognize that many eligible voters were wrongly turned away and are scrambling to soften the fallout without fully reversing course.
- Data access does not equal voter access: While the amendment references new ways to access eligibility data, it fails to offer any funding, implementation plan, or staffing support to make that access real at the polls, especially in towns without WiFi or extra hands available. In the 2024 General Election, some polling locations saw waits of over two hours

for registration. Expecting overburdened poll workers to navigate new databases would only increase those wait times and risk turning more voters away.

- We've also heard concerns directly from local election officials:
 - In Durham, presidential elections regularly bring 2,000 to 3,000 same-day registrants. Officials have said that trying to access a new system without infrastructure or added support would be overwhelming and unworkable.
 - Some election officials have warned they would need to hire additional poll workers to manage this process, adding new costs and burdens to already stretched local budgets.
 - Many towns and even some cities lack reliable WiFi at polling places. If just one polling place can't access the system, it is not a fair or functional solution.
- Building a data-integrated system is complex and costly: In Arizona, they attempted to build a voter registration system that syncs with DMV or vital records and have run into massive logistical, legal, and financial barriers. New Hampshire's amendment offers none of the resources, planning, or infrastructure needed to succeed where others have struggled – specifically, HB464 allocates \$0 for these systems.
- Half-measure that won't help voters: This is an attempt to appear responsive while maintaining the restrictive framework of HB1569. Without real access, clear procedures, or backup options like affidavits, this amendment does little more than acknowledge the harm already done.