

Earlier this week, a major development at the national level added new urgency to the conversation around voting rights. [The Supreme Court's decision in *Callais* is a serious blow to the Voting Rights Act](#)—long considered the “crown jewel” of the Civil Rights Movement.

While the Court technically preserved the legal test for proving racial discrimination, it made it **significantly harder** to challenge unfair maps by allowing partisan justifications to override protections for voters of color. [In her dissent, Justice Elena Kagan suggested the decision had made the Voting Rights Act "all but a dead letter."](#)

This puts fair representation at risk and raises the stakes for the work ahead. But if there's one thing we're reminded of every time we're out in community, it's this: people care deeply about protecting our democracy, and they're ready to show up. **The energy we felt at yesterday's rally is exactly what gives us hope, and what will carry this work forward.**

And that work continues right here in New Hampshire.

[The House Election Law Committee will meet this Tuesday, May 5 for an Executive Session.](#)

📅 Tuesday, May 5

🕒 10 AM

📍 1 Granite Place, Room 158

📞 [House Election Law Committee Individual Contact Info](#)

★ **Our actions this week focus on three bills scheduled for votes during that meeting. Be sure to send your message or make your phone call before Tuesday morning.** ★

Open Democracy Actions! ⬇️

The following actions, along with additional resources, can also be found on our website [HERE](#). We also host **volunteer meetings twice a week** (our ODA Teams!) where we discuss these efforts, share updates, and strategize together in real time. Feel free to drop in when you can or come every week—sign up [HERE](#) to join the team and receive the Zoom link!



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TLDR Actions for May 4-8

1. Email House Election Law Committee: KILL SB 223. 

2. Email House Election Law Committee: PASS SB 438. 

3. Email House Election Law Committee: PASS SB 660. 

1. Email House Election Law Committee: KILL SB 223—*Another Bill* **Attacking Student Voters**

SB 223 would ban student IDs from being used as photo identification to obtain a ballot. **Sound familiar?** 

A nearly identical bill, **HB 323**, has **already** been signed into law and will take effect on June 2—prohibiting the use of student IDs both for voter registration and at the polls on Election Day. **Given that, the *logical* next step would be to kill SB 223.**

However, the bill's introduction signals continued efforts in the wrong direction. When **Senator Victoria Sullivan** introduced SB 223 on March 31, she urged committee members to “**put some teeth in it,**” noting that HB 323 would likely be signed first. 

She also raised concerns about college-based voter registration efforts, claiming they are not overseen by local election officials and suggesting that out-of-state students should vote where they “actually” reside. **These claims are inaccurate.**

New Hampshire is one of only *two* states that does not allow third-party

voter registration drives. That means any registration activity—on a college campus or anywhere else—**must** be conducted by authorized election officials, such as a Supervisor of the Checklist or a Town/City Clerk, who are present at the event.

Students also have the legal right to register and vote where they are domiciled. They live, study, and participate in their campus communities for the majority of the year. Students are even counted at their school addresses in the U.S. Census for this very reason.

 *WATCH Senator Sullivan introduce the bill, encouraging committee members to make it even more restrictive. (1:40)*

Before the committee votes on Tuesday, remind them of these facts—and make it clear that the Granite State should be *welcoming* young people, not casting them as suspicious or unwelcome participants in our democracy. **In a state that is the second oldest in the nation, engaging the next generation of voters is essential.**

 **Click here to send a customizable email to the entire committee urging them to KILL SB 223.**

2. Email House Election Law Committee: PASS SB 438

We're dealing with another duplicate bill on this action! SB 438 is the Senate version of HB 1600, which was tabled in the Senate.

It would allow supervisors of the checklist, with a voter's consent, to check existing state records to confirm certain registration qualifications (i.e., age, citizenship, identity, or domicile) if someone



is missing paperwork.

In other words, it uses information voters have already submitted to other state agencies—like the DMV or Division of Vital Records—**so they don't have to track down and bring those documents *again*.**

The bill is a direct response to the negative impacts of [HB 1569](#) we've seen at the polls, where at least 319 voters have been turned away since it took effect in 2024.

 [Click here to send a customizable email to the entire committee urging them to PASS SB 438.](#)

3. Email House Election Law Committee: PASS SB 660

Currently, to access a free voter photo-ID voucher in NH, your name must already appear on the voter checklist. But to get on the checklist in the first place, you need an ID—creating a catch-22 for first-time voters, whether they've just turned 18 or recently moved to the state.

[SB 660](#) fixes this with a simple language change, replacing "listed on the voter checklist" with "proof of domicile." This small but important update ensures no eligible voter is denied their right to cast a ballot, and that they are able to do so at no additional cost.

This fix is especially important ahead of HB 323 taking effect on June 2nd, which will ban student IDs from being used for voting purposes and make access to alternative forms of ID even more critical.

 [Click here to send a customizable email to the entire committee urging](#)

them to PASS SB 660.

As always, thank you for staying engaged and energized week after week. **Taking just one intentional action can make a world of difference.** 🌍

We'll continue tracking hearings, votes, and advocacy opportunities closely and will be back in your inbox next Friday with clear ways to weigh in as bills advance. Together, we can push back against harmful legislation and advance real solutions that protect and strengthen democracy in New Hampshire. We're grateful to be in this work with you.

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