

As things ramp up at the State House following New Hampshire's school vacation week, the **March 26 crossover deadline** to act on all House and Senate bills is approaching quickly!

Be sure to [save and share our document outlining recent election law changes](#) so you and your community are registered and informed about updated absentee voting requirements. 📦

We're also partnering with the [NH Campaign for Voting Rights](#) to host another **Nonpartisan Poll Observer Training this Wednesday, March 4 at 6PM** ahead of the March 10 elections. If you'd like to join our team—which helped document **244 Granite Staters turned away from voting in 2025**—we'd love to have you. [Click here to RSVP.](#) ✉️

Here's a quick snapshot of what's happening this week in NH election law and how you can take action:



This week in NH Election Law...

- **Tuesday 3/3**
 - [Senate Election Law Public Hearing](#) - 9:15AM
 - *No priority bills*
 - [House Election Law Committee Executive Session](#) - 10AM
 - **SUPPORT [HB 1277](#)**: improves absentee voting accessibility.



- **Thursday 3/5**
 - House Session - 9AM
 - *No priority bills*
 - Senate Session - 10AM
 - **OPPOSE [HB 323](#)**: bans student IDs for voting. ❌

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!

Want to stay better connected with ODA? [Join our Slack workspace](#). This will be an especially helpful tool for fast communication throughout the legislative session.

1. Stand with Students: Urge Your State Senator to Oppose HB 323 🎓

On Tuesday, February 17, the Senate Election Law Committee voted 3-1 to recommend [HB 323](#) as Ought to Pass (OTP) to the full Senate.

If passed, HB 323 would ban student IDs for voting, disproportionately impacting young voters and discouraging student participation in elections at a time when civic engagement should be encouraged.

🔴 **The full Senate will vote on the bill Thursday, March 5.**

[Here are ways you can take action ahead of the vote:](#)

➔ [Email your Senator.](#) ✉

- ✅ 53 of you took this action last week—**THANK YOU!** If you were one of them, your next step is simple: **share this email or link with one other person to help *double* our outreach, or make a quick phone call to your Senator.**
- If you haven't emailed your State Senator yet, click the link above to take action in just a few seconds.

➔ [Call your Senator.](#) ☎

- We've prepared a simple script linked above to help—most calls go to voicemail or a staff member, so it only takes a minute. **You've got this!**

➔ **Boost our message** on social media by sharing our action post on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), or [Bluesky](#). [Amplify NH](#) has also created amazing graphics to repost on your page! 📱

- [Download Amplify NH HB 323 Graphics](#)
- [Check out the NH College Democrats post on HB 323](#)

➔ **Ready to take the next step?** 📞

Join our virtual phonebank party this Tuesday at 5PM (tentative), with a 30-minute training followed by an hour of calls in community. **Reply to let us know your interest and availability**, and we'll send along final details soon.

2. More Accessible Absentee Voting: Urge the House Election Law Committee to Support HB 1277 📦

[HB 1277](#) would add an additional option for absentee voters by allowing them to provide their driver's license or nondriver identification number on their

absentee ballot application. This option would exist alongside—**not replace**—the requirements established under SB 287.

Under [SB 287](#), passed last year, absentee applicants must currently verify identity by **submitting a photocopy of identification, obtaining notarization, or presenting ID in person at their clerk's office**. [As many voters anticipated when sharing their stories](#) prior to SB 287 taking effect this past September, these requirements have created significant and unnecessary barriers to absentee voting.

HB 1277 offers a practical improvement by introducing a fourth option for verification using state-issued ID numbers, reducing barriers while maintaining secure identity verification. While not a complete solution, the bill would meaningfully improve absentee voting accessibility within the existing framework of current law.

 The House Election Law Committee will vote on whether to recommend it as **Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL)** or **Ought to Pass (OTP)** to the full House on **Tuesday, March 3**.

[Here are ways you can take action ahead of the vote:](#)

 **[Email the Committee.](#)** 

-  36 of you took this action last week—**THANK YOU!** If you were one of them, your next step is simple: **share this email or link with one other person to help *double* our outreach.**
- If you haven't emailed the committee yet, click the link above to take action in just a few seconds.

 **Know someone affected by absentee ballot barriers?** The [NH Campaign](#)

[for Voting Rights \(NHCVR\)](#) is identifying potential advocates who could share their experiences in public testimony if **HB 1277** advances past executive session and moves to the Senate. Outreach is especially focused on **voices from people with disabilities** and **Age Strong voters** in nursing homes or retirement communities.

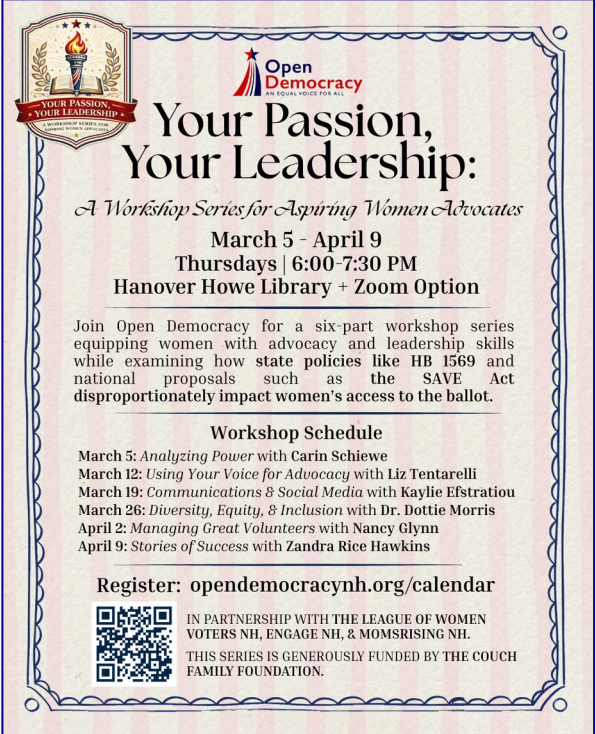
- Click here to view last year's [SB 287 storybook](#) as a reference.
- To suggest someone whose perspective could be impactful, [email Sarah Chouinard](#), Voting Rights Program Manager at NHCVR.

3. Join Us This Thursday: Kick Off the Your Passion, Your Leadership Series



🔥 Voting rights are in the spotlight—from [NH's own HB 1569](#) to the federally proposed [SAVE Act](#). If you've been looking for a sign to turn your passion into action, **this is it!**

Our "**Your Passion, Your Leadership**" workshop series kicks off **this Thursday, March 5**. In partnership with the [League of Women Voters of New Hampshire](#), [MomsRising NH](#), and Engage NH, this six-part series will equip women with the tools, skills, and confidence to become effective advocates and community leaders.

A poster for the "Your Passion, Your Leadership" workshop series. It features a decorative border and a small logo in the top left corner that says "YOUR PASSION, YOUR LEADERSHIP" with a torch icon. The main title "Your Passion, Your Leadership:" is in a large, elegant font. Below it, in a smaller font, is "A Workshop Series for Aspiring Women Advocates". The dates "March 5 - April 9" and times "Thursdays | 6:00-7:30 PM" are listed, along with the location "Hanover Howe Library + Zoom Option". A paragraph describes the series as a six-part workshop equipping women with advocacy and leadership skills, examining state policies like HB 1569 and national proposals like the SAVE Act. A "Workshop Schedule" section lists specific sessions with dates and speakers. A "Register:" link is provided, along with a QR code. At the bottom, it mentions partnerships with the League of Women Voters NH, Engage NH, and MomsRising NH, and that the series is funded by The Couch Family Foundation.

Your Passion, Your Leadership:
A Workshop Series for Aspiring Women Advocates
March 5 - April 9
Thursdays | 6:00-7:30 PM
Hanover Howe Library + Zoom Option

Join Open Democracy for a six-part workshop series equipping women with advocacy and leadership skills while examining how state policies like HB 1569 and national proposals such as the SAVE Act disproportionately impact women's access to the ballot.

Workshop Schedule
March 5: *Analyzing Power* with Carin Schiewe
March 12: *Using Your Voice for Advocacy* with Liz Tentarelli
March 19: *Communications & Social Media* with Kaylie Efstratiou
March 26: *Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion* with Dr. Dottie Morris
April 2: *Managing Great Volunteers* with Nancy Glynn
April 9: *Stories of Success* with Zandra Rice Hawkins

Register: opendemocracynh.org/calendar

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NH, ENGAGE NH, & MOMSRISING NH.
THIS SERIES IS GENEROUSLY FUNDED BY THE COUCH FAMILY FOUNDATION.

Using the disproportionate impacts of NH's **HB 1569** and the **SAVE Act** on women's access to the ballot as a central case study, participants will explore how power operates in public institutions while building practical skills in communications, social media strategy, volunteer management, and storytelling—all within a supportive community of women ready to make change.

📍 **Attend in person at [Hanover's Howe Library](#)** to connect with fellow advocates—or **join virtually via Zoom.** 💻

We're committed to making this space accessible, including offering childcare support for those who need it. Please reach out so we can help make your participation possible. 🧑🏽🧑🏻

➡️ [Visit our Events page to RSVP for the first workshop or any sessions in](#)

[the series.](#) 

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.

Kaylie Efstratiou, Development and Communications Associate

<https://www.opendemocracynh.org/>

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