

This Memorial Day, as we remember those who gave their lives in service to our country, we are reminded that protecting democracy is an ongoing responsibility. The freedoms we value today were defended at great cost, and preserving them depends on people continuing to participate in our democracy and stand up for the rights of others. 🇺🇸

With the Voting Rights Act rendered nearly powerless and new barriers to voting continuing to emerge across the country, **defending the right to vote is more important now than ever.** It is one of the clearest ways we can carry those democratic values forward and honor the sacrifices made to protect them.

The Election Law Committees of Conference we've been talking about are taking place this Thursday, 5/27, at 9AM in Room 228 of 1 Granite Place.

You can watch the meetings live on YouTube HERE. 📺

Election Law bills heading to Committees of Conference include:

- **HB 158**: requiring the secretary of state to review absentee ballot data biennially, forward certain requests to the election law unit for review, and make a report to the general court.
- **HB 281**: requiring electronic voter checklists to be supplied in a sortable format.
- **HB 317**: allowing a supervisor of the checklist to verify a person's identity, with identification, if they personally know that person.

- [HB 340](#): relative to electioneering by public employees.
- [HB 1062](#): authorizing the secretary of state to conduct random audits of the citizenship qualification of registered voters.
- [HB 1187](#): relative to the time in which candidates for state representative may file their candidacy for a special election.
- [HB 1234](#): identifying certain school district offices as incompatible for purposes of school district elections.
- [HB 1300](#): establishing a school district local tax cap question for the state general election of 2026 and related limitations on central office administrative expenses in school districts.
- [HB 1306](#): relative to the counting of absentee ballots.
- [HB 1381](#): extending the time of the party filing period.
- [HB 1541](#): requiring the secretary of state to provide all voting precincts with secure containers for storing ballots.

Quick reminder: a Committee of Conference is a small group of House and Senate lawmakers tasked with working out differences between two versions of the same bill. If they reach a compromise, both chambers vote one final time on the agreed-upon version. If they can't reach an agreement, the bill dies.

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!



Follow us on social media for updates, educational posts, and more! 📱

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TLDR Actions for May 25-29 📢

1. **Email Election Law Committee of Conference Members about [HB 1062](#) & [HB 317](#).** ❌
2. [Email Governor Ayotte urging her to PASS SB 438.](#) ✅
3. [Email Governor Ayotte urging her to VETO SB 223.](#) ❌

1. Email Election Law Committee of Conference Members: Support the Senate Versions of HB 1062 & HB 317

While there are several Election Law bills heading to Committees of Conference this week, here are the two we think are most important to weigh in on 🗣️:

❌ **[HB 1062](#)**: would authorize the Secretary of State to conduct random audits of the citizenship qualifications of registered voters.

Meeting: 05/27/2026 9:40 AM Location: GP 228

Senate Members: James Gray, Timothy Lang, Rebecca Perkins Kwoka

House Members: Ross Berry, James Qualey, Robert Wherry, Juliet Harvey-Bolia

- In HB 1062's original form, it granted the Secretary of State broad authority to use "any and all" databases. The amended Senate version adds important guardrails by requiring audits to begin with existing state databases, strictly limiting the sharing of voters' personal information with private entities, requiring binding agreements for any data sharing with non-state entities, mandating the destruction of individually identifiable data once a voter's citizenship status is resolved, and adding a sunset date of July 1, 2029.

 [Click to email members of the Committee of Conference and urge them to support the Senate amendments to HB 1062.](#)

 **HB 317:** would remove the ability of an election official who personally knows a voter to attest to that voter's identity if they forget to bring a photo ID with them on Election Day.

- You'll recognize HB 317 from last week's email. In its original form, the bill would prevent election officials from identifying voters they personally know if they forgot their photo ID on Election Day. The Senate amended the bill after concerns were raised across party lines, including by Republican senators who argued the proposal ignored the realities of New Hampshire's small-town communities and local election traditions. The amended version still allows election officials to identify voters they personally know, while adding signed documentation requirements.

Meeting: 05/27/2026 9:20 AM Location: GP 228

Senate: James Gray, Timothy Lang, Rebecca Perkins Kwoka

House: Ross Berry, James Qualey, Robert Wherry, Claudine Burnham

 [Click to email members of the Committee of Conference and urge them to support the Senate amendments to HB 317.](#) *(Feel free to skip this if you emailed about HB 317 last week—or send another message!)*

2. Urge Governor Ayotte: Sign SB 438, Help Eligible Granite Staters Register to Vote

Earlier this month, we told you about [SB 438](#) and HB 1600, two versions of a bill to codify the data-sharing agreement between the Secretary of State's office and the DMV to help voters missing documentary proof of certain qualifications register to vote. With the voter's consent, election officials can use existing state records to verify qualifications like age, citizenship, identity, or domicile—helping voters avoid having to track down documents they've already submitted to other state agencies.

[This lookup system was reportedly used more than 250 times during March town elections alone.](#) Codifying the system into law is especially important because the current agreement can be withdrawn by either party with just 60 days' notice, even as New Hampshire heads into the first higher-turnout elections since HB 1569 eliminated sworn affidavits for voters missing certain paperwork in 2024.

We now have good news to share: after some legislative back-and-forth between the House and Senate versions of the bill, the Senate voted to concur

with the House version, meaning the bill is now on its way to the Governor's desk.

➔ [Click to send an email to Governor Ayotte urging her to PASS SB 438.](#) ✓

3. Urge Governor Ayotte: Veto SB 223, Banning Student IDs for Voting...Again 🎓✗

You may also remember SB 223 from last week's email. Just over a month after Gov. Ayotte signed HB 323 into law banning the use of student IDs for voting beginning June 2, 2026, lawmakers advanced SB 223—a duplicate bill reinforcing those same restrictions through a mostly grammatical amendment. **The Senate has now voted to concur with the House-amended version, meaning the bill will head to the Governor's desk.**

As one ODA volunteer put it, the amendment essentially puts an exclamation point on the original student ID ban. Advancing another bill targeting student voters sends a troubling message to young people about their place in New Hampshire's civic life and democracy.

➔ [Click to send an email to Governor Ayotte urging her to VETO SB 223.](#) ✗

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 meetings, 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 Coordinator

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

P.S. Want to learn how to “bird-dog” candidates like a pro? 🐦🐕 Join us this Wednesday, May 27 from 6:00-7:30PM at the Franklin UU Church for a hands-on training on how to ask strategic questions that push candidates to clearly state their positions on important issues. With NH's unique access to presidential candidates, effective bird-dogging can truly shape the national conversation.

Space is limited, so RSVP at administrator@uucfranklin-nh.org!

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