

We have an important update to share based on bills in last week's action alert RE: [SB 438](#) & [HB 1600](#), two versions of a bill which would codify the data sharing agreement between the Secretary of State's office and DMV to help registrants missing documentary proof of certain qualifications.

This new system allows supervisors of the checklist, with the 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*.**

This helpful lookup feature was [used over 250 times during March 10 town elections alone](#). **But as it stands now, the agreement allows either party to withdraw with just 60 days' notice.** Formally codifying this system into law is essential as we approach the first higher-turnout elections since [HB 1569](#) eliminated sworn affidavits for voters missing certain paperwork in 2024.

You may not be surprised to hear that the Senate wants *its* version of the bill to pass, and the House wants *its* version of the bill to pass! The Senate tabled HB 1600 on April 23. Then, this past Tuesday (5/5), while considering SB 438, the House Election Law Committee voted to replace the **entirety** of the bill's language with the **exact text** of [HB 1600](#)!

[SB 438](#) is expected to pass the full House this Thursday (5/14) with bipartisan

support. If that happens, the bill will return to its originating body (the Senate), which can either agree to the House changes, reject them and let the bill die, or request a [Committee of Conference](#) to attempt to find a compromise.

We'll keep you posted on what happens this week with this very important bill and let you know when public action could be most impactful.

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 11-15



1. [Email your State Representatives to Kill SB 223 on May 14.](#)

2. Town Election on May 12: Forward This Email to Friends & Family in Chester, Hanover, Hebron, Newport, New Castle, and Peterborough. 📦

3. Join Our “VOTE” Beanie Stitching Project! 🧶

1. Seeing Double: 👁️ Tell Your Representatives to Kill SB 223, Banning Student IDs for Voting...Again

Another update from last week—this time, action-ready! Although we're thankful the House Election Law Committee didn't listen to requests to "put more teeth" into **SB 223**, a duplicate bill banning student IDs for voting (restrictions already signed into law by Gov. Ayotte in HB 323), **they still voted to pass it with an unnecessary, mostly grammatical amendment.**

The amendment clarifies that the list of voter IDs already outlined in law is the “exclusive” list of acceptable IDs for voting—essentially reinforcing the student ID ban set to take effect in June 2026. **As one of our volunteers put it, the amendment basically puts an exclamation point on HB 323. !**

II.(a) A valid photo identification shall show the name of the individual to whom the identification was issued, and the name shall substantially conform to the name in the individual's voter registration record; it also shall show a photograph of the individual to whom the identification was issued. The photo identification shall also have an expiration date that has not been exceeded by a period of more than 5 years, except that a voter 65 years of age or older may use an otherwise qualified form of identification without regard to expiration date. [The] *Only the* following forms of identification bearing a photograph of the voter shall satisfy the identification requirements of paragraph I:



Email your state representatives ahead of the next House session on May 14 and urge them to vote NO on SB 223.

2. GOTV 📦: May 12 Town Elections in Chester, Hanover, Hebron, Newport, New Castle, and Peterborough

Help us get out the vote (GOTV)! The last round of New Hampshire town elections is coming up this [Tuesday, May 12](#), for voters living in **Chester, Hanover, Hebron, Newport, New Castle, and Peterborough**.

With so many recent changes to New Hampshire's voting laws, it's important to make a plan before heading to the polls. **Here are the most important things voters should know before Election Day:**

 If already registered to vote, do these things:

-  **[CLICK TO DOUBLE-CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS](#)** 
 - Starting this year, comprehensive voter roll verification (commonly referred to as voter roll purges) will [take place annually](#) instead of once every 10 years. Supervisors of the Checklist will **remove voters who have not voted in the past five years**. Voters who have cast a ballot within the last five years or registered since the 2024 general election do not need to take any action. [Still, mistakes can happen](#)—so it's a good idea to double-check your registration status, even if you're a frequent voter.
- Be sure to bring a [valid photo-ID](#) with you to check in and obtain your ballot. 
 -  Important for any high school or college students voting in Hanover: while student IDs have been banned for voting, the law does not take effect until June 2.  [Download our Student Voting Guide Pamphlet](#)
 - [Click here](#) for more information from the Secretary of State's Office on how to obtain a **free photo ID** for voting purposes only.

If registering to vote, do these things:

- Bring **documentary proof** of your age, citizenship, identity, and domicile (remember "ACID") + **proof of name change**, if applicable (photos are acceptable 
 - [Click here](#) for more information from the Secretary of State's office on how to obtain **free copies of vital records** like birth and marriage certificates for voting purposes only.
- If you were **previously registered** in New Hampshire, or are **currently registered in another NH town or ward**, you generally do not need to reprove citizenship or age, only identity and domicile. Still, we recommend bringing proof of all qualifications just in case.
-  You should **absolutely** try to bring all required documents with you if you have them, since access to the statewide voter registration system (SVRS) is often limited to certain election officials and lines could become long on Election Day. **However, if you are missing certain documents, local election officials may still be able to assist you.** With your permission, they may search certain records from the NH DMV and Division of Vital Records to help verify your voter qualifications.

To Register to Vote in NH...				
★★★ You'll need to prove age, citizenship, identity, and domicile. ★★★				
Common IDs	Age	Citizenship	Identity	Domicile (where you live)
Driver's License Or government issued photo ID	★		★	★ (if current NH address)
Birth Certificate	★	★		
Passport	★	★	★	
Naturalization Papers	★	★	★	
New Hampshire Resident Vehicle Registration				★
Government issued check, benefit statement, or Tax document W-2 wage and tax statement				★

Remember to bring proof of your name change if the name on your ID does not match the name on your proof of citizenship (e.g., a marriage certificate, divorce decree, adoption records, or a court-approved name change document).



Things all voters should do before Election Day:

- [Confirm the **location** of your polling place.](#) Make sure it has not changed since the last election! 📍
- Check your town's polling **hours** ahead of time, as hours can vary by municipality. 🕒
- View a **sample ballot** on your town's website. 📄✎
 - [Chester](#), [Hanover](#), [Hebron](#), [Newport](#), [New Castle](#), [Peterborough](#).

➡ **Reach out to at least ONE voter you know in Chester, Hanover, Hebron, Newport, New Castle, or Peterborough and ask them if they have a plan to vote on Tuesday. A quick reminder from someone they know can make all the difference in typically low-turnout local elections!** 📦

- Feel free to copy us on emails at kaylie@opendemocracy.me. We'd love to help answer any voting questions that come up and hear about the outreach you're doing in your community!

3. Stitching for Democracy 🧶: Join Our "VOTE" Beanie Project!

Star volunteer and Open Democracy Action Board Secretary **Linda Bundy** has begun crafting beautiful "VOTE" beanie hats to distribute in exchange for donations supporting Open Democracy's mission and work across New Hampshire! ★

Linda has generously put together kits for anyone interested in joining the effort, and we're beginning to plan a laid-back Zoom gathering where folks can walk through the steps together, stitch in community, and



chat about democracy and what's happening across New Hampshire.

 [Please fill out this Google Form so we can coordinate getting a kit to you and find times that work best for everyone to connect virtually!](#)

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.

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

P.S. Join Kent Street Coalition's monthly meeting this Thursday, May 14 from 6:30-8:00 PM on Zoom! The meeting will include discussion of the 2026 elections, recent changes to voting laws, and what advocates should be watching moving forward. Our Executive Director, **Olivia Zink**, will be joining the conversation! 

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