

Happy Friday! We hope you've been enjoying the warm weather. ☀️

We're sure many of you have heard the good news by now, but if you haven't: earlier this week, [a federal judge blocked Indiana's student ID ban!](#) 🎉

US District Judge Richard L. Young granted a **preliminary injunction**, which means that student IDs can be used in upcoming Indiana elections while the case works its way through court.

While this doesn't affect [New Hampshire's recent ban on student IDs for voting, which will take effect on June 2nd, 2026,](#) it does offer a sign of hope for any potential legal challenges to come.

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! 📱

- Facebook: [Open Democracy Action Teams \(Group\)](#) / [Open Democracy Action](#) / [Open Democracy NH](#)

- Instagram: [opedemocracyaction](https://www.instagram.com/opedemocracyaction)
- Bluesky: [odaction.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/odaction.bsky.social)
- Twitter: [OpenDemoAction](https://twitter.com/OpenDemoAction) / [OpenDemocracyNH](https://twitter.com/OpenDemocracyNH)
- TikTok: [opedemocracyaction](https://www.tiktok.com/@opedemocracyaction)
- YouTube: [Open Democracy NH](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqj8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K) / [Open Democracy Action](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqj8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K)
- [Join our Slack channel](#)



TLDR Actions for April 20-24

1. **Tell the Senate Election Law Committee to PASS HB 1601: \$ for Voter Education** 
2. **Ask the Secretary of State to share the current voter education plan with voters** 
3. **Amplify our student voter guide on Instagram or Facebook** 

1. Email committee members urging them to PASS HB 1601: requiring the Sec. of State to create a voter education program on recent changes to election law

HB 1601 would require the Secretary of State to create a voter education program that includes information on recent changes to voting laws.

The Committee is expected to make a recommendation on the bill during their next meeting on Tuesday, 4/21. During this past Tuesday's executive session (4/14), members indicated they are waiting to review an outline of the Secretary of State's current voter education plan.

Voting laws in New Hampshire have changed *a lot* over the past few years—and voters who can't keep up are paying the price. **Confusion leads to longer**

lines, mistakes, and ultimately, eligible voters being turned away from the polls. 🙅

We appreciate the work the Secretary of State currently does to educate voters. But given the pace and volume of recent changes made by the legislature, it only makes sense to renew investment here for the good of the people of NH.

HB 1601 is a commonsense bill. It builds on current efforts by allocating \$50,000 in existing [Help America Vote Act \(HAVA\)](#) funds—a small portion of the roughly \$13 million still available—to expand and modernize voter education.

During HB 1601's second public hearing on March 31st, the Secretary of State testified that it was unnecessary. However, when asked by Senator Perkins Kwoka whether his office still planned to send a postcard outlining recent changes to every New Hampshire voter, he confirmed that it remains the plan, while also acknowledging it was "**a very expensive proposition,**" **relying on leftover paper from the pandemic.**

- 🗣️ [Watch the Secretary of State's response](#)

This reinforces the need for a more consistent, adequately resourced approach to voter education. If even *basic* outreach like mailers raises cost concerns under normal circumstances, it underscores the importance of additional resources and a more modern, comprehensive system that meets voters where they are.

➡️ [Click to send an email to the Senate Election Law Committee urging them to vote Ought to Pass \(OTP\) on HB 1601.](#) 📧

➡ **Write a Letter to the Editor**
(LTE).

- *Looking for an example?*
Check out this awesome
LTE by Schuyler Bogue of
Concord!
- 👍 **Find LTE submission guidelines [HERE](#).** Many legislators will read their local papers, so LTEs are a great way to reach them. Best practices for LTEs include keeping them on one topic and relatively short while making a complete and compelling argument. Please do not hesitate to [email Kaylie](#) for assistance with editing, submission, or any other questions!

2. Ask the Secretary of State
to Share the Voter Education
Plan Outline 💬

As previously mentioned,
Senate Election Law committee

members noted they are waiting to review an outline of the Secretary of State's current voter education plan before deciding on [HB 1601](#).

If the plan is comprehensive enough that the Secretary of State would decline \$50,000 in HAVA funds—out of roughly \$13 million still available**—to expand and strengthen voter education, even as at least 319 voters have been turned away since the implementation of HB 1569 in Nov. 2024, Granite Staters deserve to see it.**

Sharing the plan publicly would allow voters, advocates, and community partners to better understand what's already in place, as well as identify any remaining gaps or opportunities to strengthen existing outreach.

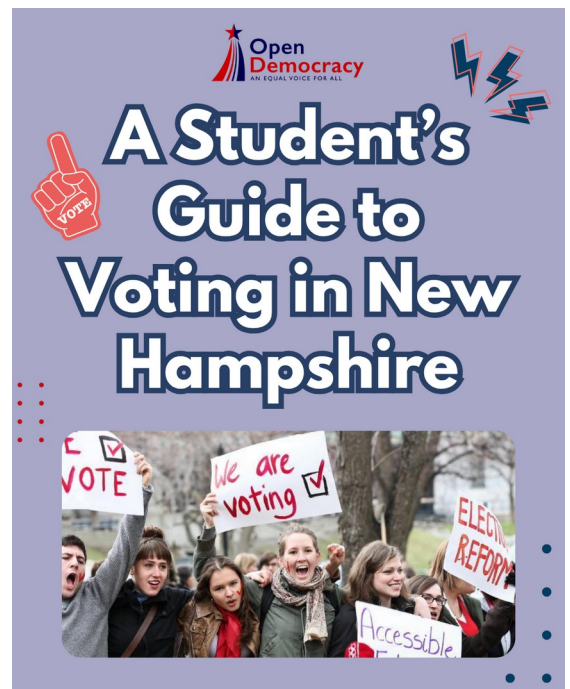
A clear, accessible voter education strategy benefits everyone.

➡ [Ask the Secretary of State to publicly share the voter education plan outline.](#) 🙏

3. Help Reach Student Voters Ahead of Summer Break ☀️

The ban on student IDs for voting will take effect on June 2nd, 2026. Before students head home for the summer, we want to make sure they understand these changes and have enough time to gather the documents they'll need to register, check-in, and vote. 🎓

➡ [Share/repost our Student Voter Guide on Instagram or Facebook to](#)



help more students see it. 🙄



Want to distribute materials on campus? [Email](#)

kaylie@opendemocracy.me to request paper copies (mailed to you) or a PDF version of the guide. [✉](#)

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.

Kaylie Efstratiou, Development & Communications Associate

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

P.S. 📖 Are you registered for the next **Open Democracy Book Club** meeting on Tuesday, 4/21? We'll be discussing ***The Hard Work of Hope*** by Michael Ansara—and he'll be joining us! No worries if you haven't finished (or haven't started) the book—we'll still have a great discussion. [You can check out a recent interview to get a sense of what the book is about here.](#) 🎙 [Click to RSVP!](#)

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