



**The House Election Law Committee has tentatively scheduled its first public hearing for January 20, covering a wide range of proposals—from voter registration at the DMV and online voting to campaign finance transparency.**

**Because the hearing has not yet been posted to the General Court website, sign-in links for these bills are not live yet.** We'll share those links in next Friday's action email as soon as they become available. I

***Brief Update on Retained Bills from Last Week's Actions***

We're happy to report that one of the retained bills we alerted you to take action on last week, [CACR4](#), was **defeated**. 🎉 This bill would have changed the state constitution to limit who can vote, using vague language about where someone "actually resides." Because the bill never defines what "actually" means, it could have confused voters and election officials and put the voting rights of people with seasonal or temporary living situations at risk—all without fixing any real problem in New Hampshire elections.

Unfortunately, many anti-voter bills did **advance**. Most notably is [HB 323](#), **which would ban student IDs from being used to check in and vote at the polls**. The bill is based on false claims of voter fraud and would make voting harder for many eligible Granite Staters, *especially* young people. The bill will now move to the Senate Election Law Committee for a public hearing—we'll be sure to let you know when it's scheduled.

For updates and video clips on all retained 2025 bills you took action on last week, [click here](#) and scroll to the “Legislative” tab.

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](#) (\*updated link!) This will be an especially helpful tool for fast communication throughout the legislative session.

---

### **1. Social Media Storm: Sound the Alarm on HB 323!**

[HB 323](#) would eliminate commonly used forms of ID—including student IDs—creating unnecessary barriers at the polls, especially for young people and working voters. The freedom to vote should never depend on having the “right” piece of plastic in your wallet.

If lawmakers want to encourage civic participation, **especially for those who are often first-time voters**, they should be focused on making voting **more accessible**, not harder. 

#### **Help spread the word:**

Reaching and educating people early helps to build awareness and momentum before the bill moves to the Senate. Amplify our post featuring **Rep. James Newsom (D-09)** giving a powerful speech against HB 323, explaining how the

bill attempts to solve a problem that simply ***does not exist***.

- [\*\*\*Share on Instagram\*\*\*](#)
- [\*\*\*Share on Facebook\*\*\*](#)
- [\*\*\*Share on Twitter\*\*\*](#)

***Share Story from NHPR 1/7: [NH House approves bill ending use of student IDs for voting](#)***

**McKenzie Taylor, Director of the New Hampshire Campaign for Voting Rights, released the following statement regarding the bills passage:**

*"Hundreds of Granite State voters were turned away from the polls last year thanks to a new restrictive law, and now anti-voter politicians are working to make it even more difficult to exercise citizens' right to vote. If the past year taught us anything, it is that New Hampshire's new voter suppression scheme has real consequences for every voter across our state. When the Senate looks at this bill, we trust that they will see it as meritless and damaging to the integrity of New Hampshire elections."*

- [\*\*\*Share McKenzie's statement\*\*\*](#)

## **2. Write an LTE: Support HB 1600, Enabling Voter Registration at the DMV**

[HB 1600](#) would require the Division of Motor Vehicles to make available the opportunity to register to vote at the time of application for or renewal of a driver's license or non-driver identification card.

New Hampshire is one of just six states exempt from the [National Voter Registration Act of 1993](#) (the "motor voter" law), which requires states to offer voter registration at the DMV. For decades, New Hampshire's same-day voter registration system served as a meaningful alternative, ensuring eligible voters

could still register and vote without unnecessary barriers.

But that was before New Hampshire enacted strict citizenship documentation requirements, such as HB 1569. Under current law, a same-day registrant who does not know to bring a passport or birth certificate may be unable to vote at all due to the time required to obtain those documents—even if they are fully eligible. **Before HB 1569, that same voter could have signed an affidavit swearing to their eligibility and cast a ballot.**

In this new reality, same-day registration alone no longer guarantees access to the ballot. **HB 1600 would help restore that access** by allowing voters to register earlier at the DMV, when they are more likely to have the required documents and time to resolve any issues—before Election Day.

 HB 1600 is scheduled for a public hearing on January 20th at 1:20PM, and the bill has **bipartisan co-sponsors**, giving it a real chance to move forward! Writing a letter to the editor ahead of the hearing is a powerful way to help build public support and show lawmakers that Granite Staters want practical, accessible voter registration options.

👉 **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!
- **Even better: your LTE can double as written testimony for the public hearing**, saving you time while maximizing your impact.

### 3. Start the Conversation: Support HB 1838 (Voter-Owned Elections)

HB 1838 would create a **voter-owned elections fund**, a voluntary public funding option that allows candidates to run viable campaigns using small contributions from everyday voters—rather than relying on big donors and outside money. Under this model, voters receive “Voter Dollars” they can give to participating candidates of their choice, helping put voters—not special interests—back at the center of our democracy.

This reform is urgently needed. After lawmakers quietly repealed limits on political committee donations in 2022, New Hampshire elections were flooded with unlimited and often untraceable money. In 2024, a single PAC accounted for **70% of the governor's campaign funds**, with more than **\$14 million** coming from one organization alone—stacking the deck against candidates without access to wealthy donors.



HB 1838 is scheduled for a public hearing on January 20th at 2:45PM.



#### **What you can do now (before the public hearing):**

- **Start talking with your community**—friends, neighbors, local groups—about why public funding of elections matters and how HB 1838 would help put voters, not wealthy donors, back at the center of our democracy.
- **Begin prepping testimony** for the upcoming public hearing. Even a few sentences about why reducing big-money influence matters to you can make a powerful impact. We'll share sign-in details and testimony instructions as soon as they're available.

- [Voter-Owned Elections Toolkit](#) 

---

Thank you for staying engaged as the legislative session ramps up. These early weeks matter, and the actions you take now help shape what happens next. We'll continue tracking hearings, votes, and sign-in opportunities closely and will be back in your inbox next Friday with clear ways to testify and weigh in as bills move forward.

Together, we can push back against harmful proposals 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. Did you miss our *Raise Your Voice: How to Testify* training?  You can [watch the recording here](#), and if you'd like the slides, feel free to [email me](#) and I'm happy to share them!

Open Democracy Action · 4 Park St, Suite 301, Concord, NH 03301, United States

This email was sent to [hwr-nottdems@comcast.net](mailto:hwr-nottdems@comcast.net). To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Created with [NationBuilder](#), software for leaders.