

Tis the season for [Committees of Conference!](#)... and graduation parties! 🎓🎉

Thursday (5/14) marked the final day for the House and Senate to vote on bills passed by the other chamber, meaning the election law bills we've been tracking are now entering one of the final stages of the legislative process.

So, what exactly is a Committee of

Conference?

In simple terms, if the House and Senate pass different versions of the same bill, lawmakers from both

chambers are appointed to a small committee to try to work out the differences and reach a compromise. If they come to an agreement, both chambers vote one final time on the compromise version. If they cannot agree, the bill dies.

Committee of Conference meetings only have to be publicly scheduled one day in advance, so things can move quickly this time of year! ⌚

Upcoming Legislative Deadlines:



Last day to form Committees of Conference: May 21



Last day to sign Committee of Conference reports: May 28 at 4PM



Last day for the House and Senate to act on Committee of Conference reports: June 4



Committee of Conference Schedule

And as the legislative session races toward its conclusion, graduation season is ramping up too! With many high school and college graduations happening across New Hampshire in the next few weeks, it's also a great opportunity to help the next generation get informed and #VoteReady. 🗳️

Below are a few simple ways you can plug in this week—both at the State House and in your own community:

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 18-22

1. **Tell Committee of Conference Members: HB 317 is BAD for Community**  
 2. **Tell Your Senator: One Student ID Ban for Voting is More Than Enough!**  
 3. **Graduation Season = Voter Education Season**  
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1. Tell Committee of Conference Members: HB 317 is BAD for Community

In its original version, [HB 317](#) sought to eliminate 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.

Supporters of the bill repeatedly raised **hypothetical concerns** about NH towns “waving folks through” the check-in line without ID. **But that is not how New Hampshire elections operate, and there has been no demonstrated issue with election officials improperly allowing people to vote without verifying who they are.** For generations, New Hampshire elections have taken pride in the integrity and local knowledge of our election officials—trusted neighbors who know their communities well.

HB 317 would tell those officials that their judgment no longer matters. If passed in its original form, it could turn away eligible voters who are personally known to local election officials simply because they forgot or misplaced their ID that day.

It's important to note that concerns about this bill crossed party lines.

During the Senate Election Law Committee hearing, **Senator Tim Lang criticized the proposal as “anti-community,”** saying it “takes community out of the equation” and ignores the relationships built through local civic life in New Hampshire towns. He explained that after years of serving alongside neighbors on school boards, budget committees, and zoning boards, “community means nothing” under the bill as written, adding that he could not support it in its original form.

Senator David Rochefort similarly pointed to the realities of the small North Country communities he represents, noting during the hearing that one of the towns he represents has just six voters. He explained that in many of the towns he serves, people have known each other for generations and are deeply involved in local civic life. Reflecting on his own participation in zoning boards and community meetings, Rochefort suggested that if he showed up without an ID, he would *hope* the people in his town meetings would still be able to identify him!

The Senate ultimately amended the bill before passing it. In their version, voters whose identity is personally confirmed by an election official would still be allowed to vote, but both the voter and election workers would be required to sign documentation attesting to that identification.

HB 317 is now headed to a Committee of Conference (CoC), where House and Senate members will attempt to resolve the differences between the two versions of the bill and come to a final agreement.

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

House CoC Members: Ross Berry, James Qualey, Robert Wherry, Claudine

Burnham

➡ [Tell HB 317 Committee of Conference Members to Put Community First.](#)

2. Tell Your Senator: One Student ID Ban Is More Than Enough!

Just over a month ago, Gov. Ayotte signed [HB 323](#) into law, banning the use of student IDs for voting beginning on June 2, 2026. Despite that, lawmakers have chosen to advance [SB 223](#)—a duplicate bill that reinforces those restrictions through a mostly grammatical amendment.

The amendment emphasizes that the list of voter IDs already outlined in law is the *exclusive* list of acceptable IDs for voting. As one ODA volunteer put it, the amendment essentially puts an exclamation point on HB 323. **! Before the full House vote, Election Law Committee Chairman Ross Berry argued that the bill would “slam the door shut” on the matter.**

SB 223 must now return to its originating body—the Senate—for approval of the amended version at its next session on May 21. Advancing **another** bill targeting student voters sends the wrong message to students and young voters about their place in New Hampshire’s civic life.

➡ [Tell Your Senator to Non-Concur with SB 223 and let the duplicate bill die.](#)

3. Graduation Season = Voter Education Season 🎓📦

As many of us get ready to celebrate the graduations of friends and family members, it’s also a great opportunity to help the next generation get #VoteReady! **As young people complete one major milestone, encourage**

them to take another important step: registering to vote and learning about recent election law changes in New Hampshire.

➡ One easy way to help: print out a small [voter education grad insert](#) and include it in a graduation card or gift for a graduating senior.

➡ Leave some of our [Student Voter Registration Guide Pamphlets](#) around campus.

➡ Spread voter education more broadly by printing our [“Check Your Voter Registration” flyers](#) and posting them on community bulletin boards at coffee shops, libraries, campuses, and other high-traffic public spaces.

Every conversation and every flyer helps make sure more Granite Staters head into adulthood informed, engaged, and ready to vote.

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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