

Open Democracy Action Alert: February 9-13

Wins from the Past Week 🎉

HB 1520, which sought to invent a new concept of “New Hampshire citizenship” for voting and would have **required voters born outside the state to swear an “oath of allegiance” to NH in order to vote**—was **unanimously recommended Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL)** by the House Election Law Committee.

HB 1382, which would have required certain overseas voters to submit documentary proof of citizenship despite already being eligible under federal law, was also defeated after its sponsor acknowledged the bill conflicted with federal law, leading the committee to **unanimously recommend ITL before the full House killed it.**



This week in NH Election Law...

- The [Senate Election Law Committee](#) will meet in Room 122-123 of the State House at 9:15AM on Tuesday 2/10.
- The [House Election Law Committee](#) will meet in Room 158 of 1 Granite Place at 10AM on Tuesday 2/10.

Top Priority for 2026 Session: **OPPOSING HB 323 and HB 317** ✖

HB 323 and HB 317 were both retained in 2025. They were voted OTP by the full House on 1/7/26, and now move to the Senate Election Law Committee.

OPPOSE HB 323: This bill removes student IDs and requires the presentation of a government-issued photographic means of identification in order to vote. **This would disproportionately affect young voters:** many students do not drive, making student IDs their most accessible form of identification. It's also a solution in search of a problem: there is no evidence of any cases of fraud involving student IDs, making this restriction a barrier without a demonstrated need. Voters have already provided documentation to register: At check-in, they are simply confirming their identity—so banning student IDs at this stage doesn't protect elections; it creates unnecessary barriers.

- [Link to Sign in on Senate Bills](#)
- [Link to Email Senate Election Law Committee](#)
- [Share Rep. Newsom's 1/7 speech opposing the bill \(Facebook/Instagram/X\)](#) 📱
- [Share 2/10 Public Hearing Information \(Facebook/Instagram/X/Bluesky\)](#)

OPPOSE HB 317: This bill removes the ability for an election official who personally knows or recognizes a voter to attest to that voter's identity if they do not have a photo ID. For generations, New Hampshire elections have relied on trained, local election officials—neighbors who know their communities. HB 317 tells those officials their judgment no longer matters. If passed, it

would turn eligible voters away: think civic-minded voters stopping in on their daily walk who didn't bring their ID, parents rushing over between responsibilities and realized their wallet was at home, the longtime resident known to poll workers for years who simply misplaced their identification that day.

- [Link to Sign in on Senate Bills](#)
- [Link to Email House Senate Law Committee](#)

Support or Oppose?	Bill	Action *Click for Links*
	<u>HB323</u> requiring the presentation of a government-issued photographic means of identification in order to vote. (bans student IDs for voting)	Public Hearing: 2/10/26 at 9:35 a.m. Location: State House Room 122-123 Committee: Senate Election Law Link to Sign in on Senate Bills Link to Email Committee
	<u>HB317</u> preventing a supervisor of the checklist from verifying a person's identity without identification, even if they personally know that person.	Public Hearing: 2/10/26 at 9:45 a.m. Location: State House Room 122-123 Committee: Senate Election Law Link to Sign in on Senate Bills Link to Email Committee

2. Sign in & Testify on House Election Law Bills

★ **Top Priority for 2026 Session:** **SUPPORTING** HB 1601 and HB 1277 

SUPPORT HB 1601: This bill requires the Secretary of State to create and maintain a voter education program that clearly explains recent changes to voting laws. Voting laws in New Hampshire have changed a lot—[and voters are paying the price](#). Confusion leads to longer lines, mistakes, and people being turned away. HB 1601 says that if lawmakers change the rules, voters

at minimum deserve clear, accurate information. The Secretary of State already claims to run a “comprehensive voter education program.” If that’s true, then this bill should be easy to implement. If it’s not, then this bill is overdue. Either way, Granite Staters deserve better and we should have pride in educating as many of our friends and neighbors about the importance of civic participation.

- [Link to Sign in on House Bills](#)
- [Link to Email House Election Law Committee](#)

SUPPORT HB 1277: This bill allows voters to provide their driver’s license number when applying for an absentee ballot instead of getting a document notarized or submitting a copy of their ID. It's a common-sense fix: right now, voters who want to vote absentee face unnecessary hurdles—finding a notary, paying a fee, struggling with a copy machine, or making extra trips just to submit paperwork. HB 1277 removes those barriers without weakening security.

Support or Oppose?	Bill	Action *Click for Links*
Support 	<u>HB1601</u> requiring the secretary of state to create a voter education program that includes information on recent changes to voting laws.	Public Hearing: 2/10/26 at 10:20a.m. Location: 1 Granite Place Room 158 Committee: House Election Law <u>Link to Sign in on House Bills</u> <u>Link to Email Committee</u>
Support 	<u>HB1391</u> establishing a commission to study the implementation of a single ballot primary election.	Public Hearing: 2/10/26 at 10:40a.m. Location: 1 Granite Place Room 158 Committee: House Election Law <u>Link to Sign in on House Bills</u>
Support 	<u>HB1277</u> relative to proof of identification on absentee ballot applications.	Public Hearing: 2/10/26 at 11:40a.m. Location: 1 Granite Place Room 158 Committee: House Election Law

		<u>Link to Sign in on House Bills</u> <u>Link to Email Committee</u>
Support 	<u>HB1600</u> requiring the division of motor vehicles to make available the opportunity to register to vote at the time of application for or renewal of a drivers license or nondrivers identification card.	Executive Session: 2/10/26 at 10:10a.m. Location: Room 158 Committee: House Election Law <u>Link to Email Committee</u>

3. Social Media Storm: Stop the SAVE Act 2.0

As we mentioned last week, Republicans have renewed their efforts to advance the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act (SAVE Act). This time, with two new iterations of that legislation (the [Make Elections Great Again Act \(MEGA\)](#) and the [Save America Act](#)). While under new names, these new bills are part of the same effort by Republican members of Congress to disenfranchise millions of eligible voters from participating in upcoming elections.

How the SAVE Act (+ SAVE 2.0) will put up barriers

- The SAVE Act would require all eligible Americans to provide proof of citizenship by presenting a passport or birth certificate when registering to vote. This would be on top of voter ID laws that the majority of states already have in place. **Why this is an issue:**
 - [More than half of American citizens](#) - 150 million citizens - do not have a passport, and [elderly Americans](#) are one of the demographic groups least likely to have a passport.
 - Many other Americans [do not have readily available access to their birth certificates](#), including millions of women who do not have birth certificates with their current legal name. Further, birth certificates are needed for passport validation. However, there is not a regulated cost for them, and many Americans cannot afford this cost.

→ [Click here to email Congress urging them to Stop the SAVE Act.](#)

→ [Click here for social media graphics, captions, and hashtags to spread the word to your followers!](#)