



**League of Women Voters
New Hampshire**

April 26, 2016

Senator Regina Birdsell, Chair
Public and Municipal Affairs Committee

Re: HB 1534, AN ACT relative to report of death of voters and authorizing an electronic poll book trial program

Dear Senator Birdsell and members of the committee,

The League of Women Voters NH is a nonpartisan organization that works to encourage citizens to take an interest in politics and to vote. After study by its members, the League often advocates for legislation and public policies that serve the public interest.

The League supports this exciting initiative to try a modern, efficient and more secure method of registering people to vote and checking voters in at the polling place. The demonstrations of the system that have been held have been enthusiastically received by election officials from across the state. The choice of Manchester, Hooksett and Durham as trial sites provides a good sampling of New Hampshire communities. The Secretary of State has been given the power with this bill to make it possible for a trial to proceed smoothly. The Legislature should strongly support this bill and work with the Secretary of State to iron out any problems that might arise.

New Hampshire currently has approximately \$11 million left of the Help America Vote Act funds it received for the express purpose of modernizing its election procedures and making voting more accessible. The Legislature should make use of these funds to bring New Hampshire voting into the 21 Century. That is what the HAVA money was meant to do. We urge the Legislature to make modernizing elections and making them more accessible a priority using the more than ample funds that are available. This trial program of electronic poll books is an opportunity to begin the process.

The League of Women Voters NH urges the committee to vote *Ought to Pass* on HB 1534.

Thank you,

Liz Tentarelli, co-president
Joan Flood Ashwell, election law specialist
League of Women Voters NH
www.LWVNH.org