



**League of Women Voters
New Hampshire**

March 1, 2016

Rep. Kathleen Hoelzel, Chair
House Election Law Committee
Re: non-germane amendment to HB 1482

Dear Chairman Hoelzel 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 keeping our voter database up-to-date but we oppose adopting the Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck Program because it is based on poor methodology and does not adequately safeguard the rights of qualified voters. The program's reliance on a data match of just name and birthdate has resulted in so many false matches that some states, including Florida, have dropped out of the program.

New Hampshire currently works with other New England states to share voter registration information. Most of New Hampshire's in and out migration is with the other New England states. We recommend a study of this arrangement to see how it is working and how it could be improved before moving on to another program with states that have little interaction with New Hampshire in terms of migration patterns.

We're also concerned because the Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck Program was created and is controlled by partisan elected officials. There are studies and pilot interstate voter registration crosscheck programs that are being done on a nonpartisan basis. ERIC, designed by the nonpartisan Pew Charitable Trust and IBM, has won high praise for the accuracy of its program which uses data from multiple sources to reduce incorrect matches. If the legislature wishes to expand crosschecks beyond New England it should look to nonpartisan, multifaceted programs.

The League of Women Voters NH urges the House Election Law Committee to support HB 1482 which creates a committee to conduct a study of our voter registration database including ways to improve the accuracy of the records, and we urge the committee to reject this proposed amendment.

Thank you,

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