

This is the first of the new year's Legislative Alerts from the League of Women Voters NH. Each Friday we check the NH House and NH Senate calendars for the coming week and choose those bills of particular interest to League to highlight here. You can find the complete calendars for yourself on the [http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/ website](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/website) (scroll to lower right for calendar links).

Reminder that these hearings are public meetings. You may attend, and if you wish to weigh in pro or con on particular bills, you may do so by signing a list somewhere in the meeting room. If you wish to speak on a bill, in the House fill in a pink card and leave it on the desk. In the Senate, check off the "wish to speak" column on the sheet. Generally the committees will not vote on bills they are hearing right away. They schedule an Executive Session to do that, which will be posted in the calendar.

For the first full week of the session, most committees are holding orientation sessions for their members, so only a few bills of interest to League are being heard. Below is that list. (note that room numbers starting with LOB refer to the Legislative Office Building across the street and behind the state house.)

### **Wed., January 9**

Senate Election Law (LOB room 102) will meet at 10 am for presentations by the Secretary of State, The Association of Counties, and the NH Municipal Assn.

**Thurs., January 10: Two very important bills this afternoon to protect voting rights! If you can come, sign in as supporting HB106 and HB105.**

#### House Election Law (LOB rm 308)

1 pm HB106 This bill amends the general statutory definitions of "resident or inhabitant" and "residence or residency" to include an intent to maintain a principal place of physical presence for the indefinite future.

The bill restores language removed from the law in 2018 (HB 1264). *League opposed HB1264, which would make voting more difficult for some people and is to take effect July 1, 2019. We support HB106 and will testify to reverse HB1264.*

1:30 pm HB105 This bill modifies the definition of domicile for voting purposes, modifies forms and procedures for voter registration, and removes the requirement that the secretary of state conduct post-election voter registration inquiries. *League supports this bill and will testify. This bill reverses SB3, which passed in 2017, that made voter registration cumbersome and confusing for many potential voters. We have yet to complete our court trial in which League is suing the Secretary of State and the Attorney General over SB3. Passage of this bill would accomplish the same thing--make voter registration less confusing for voters and election officials and allow proof of domicile by affidavit, without further paperwork proof, possible again.*

### **Tues., January 15**

House & Senate Education Committees, in joint session (LOB rm 205-207) at 10 am will hear presentations by Education Commissioner Edelblut, State Bd of Educ chair Cline, Chancellor Gittell (Community College System), and Chancellor Leach (State College/University System)

#### House Election Law (LOB rm 308)

10 am CACR5 (a proposed constitutional amendment) allowing 17-year olds who will be eligible to vote in the general election to vote in that election's primary election.

11 am HB315 repeals the authority to share voter information or data with other sites, specifically with the Crosscheck program that is prone to “false positive” duplicate voter matches. Other bills later will deal with alternatives to Crosscheck. *League supports getting out of Crosscheck.*

1 pm HB202 This bill requires that any presidential primary candidate file 5 years' worth of federal income tax returns along with the declaration of candidacy to the secretary of state, and requires the secretary of state to certify and make publicly available such tax returns.

2 PM CACR6 (a proposed constitutional amendment) provides that any qualified voter who desires to vote by absentee ballot may do so. (Later in the year there will be a couple of other bills on absentee voting as well.)