

(address redacted)
Newbury New Hampshire 03255
January 9, 2019

Re: **HB 105-FN** – relative to domicile residence, voter registration, and investigation of voter verification letters

To: Chair David Cote and members of the House Election Law Committee

Almost two years ago Newbury election officials – Selectboard, Supervisors of the Checklist, and Moderator – unanimously submitted testimony urging rejection of SB 3. Today we urge swift passage of the corrective HB 105-FN.

My greatest concern about SB 3 was that it was contrary to our NH Constitution, the Constitution NH officials take an oath to support. The New Hampshire Constitution promises that “every inhabitant of the state of 18 years of age and upwards shall have an equal right to vote in any election.” Every voter’s signature on the registration form had been a swearing that the information on the form was correct.

What unequal treatments did SB 3 impose on voters who register within 30 days of election or on election day? They include

- “presumed to be present for temporary purposes”
- processed differently, with different forms and verification procedures
- potentially removed from the voter checklist if they do not provide required documentation after the election
- required to provide a written statement signed by a person listed on ownership of property document if voter has no other evidence of domicile
- (the word of another is more acceptable than the word of the voter)
- verified through visits by two or more municipal officers or their agents to the declared domicile
- be subject to additional criminal or civic penalties

HB 105-FN eliminates those inequalities and returns to a registration process where all voters share the same requirements, no longer targeting voters who change residence or who choose legally to register on election day. HB 105 returns to the Constitutional equity for every New Hampshire voter who has “an equal right to vote in every election.”

Nancy Marashio, Moderator
Town of Newbury