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February 20, 2019

To Senate Election Law Committee

From Liz Tentarelli, president, League of Women Voters NH LWVNewHampshire@gmail.com

Re SB 7 establishing the SMART voter registration Act

The League of Women Voters has been supporting voting rights for 99 years. This year we urge you to **vote OUGHT TO PASS on SB 7**, which does a number of things to shore up New Hampshire citizens' right to vote.

Access to voting can be a challenge for some, because right now going to the town clerk's office is the typical process. Yes, one can register during a one-hour Supervisors of the Checklist meeting in advance of the election. And one can register at the polls, which often involves waiting in line for both registration and casting a ballot. For people who work long hours, this is a problem. They probably can't get to the town clerk's office. This is especially true in rural areas, where the town clerk is a part-time position and may not include weekend or evening hours.

Military families stationed elsewhere have registration issues that would be solved by more access. Updating addresses online as they get stationed in a new place would make their voter registration both easier and more accurate.

Senior citizens have the issue of transportation, and changing registration procedures to include online options would work for them.

Finally, to make voting accessible to the generation least likely to vote, the 18-30 year olds, we have to find ways to fit their lives. They seem to be willing to go to the DMV to get a drivers' license, but I know of no young people who regard a physical visit to the town clerk as part of their lives. They shop online, they communicate online, they socialize online. This bill would let them register when they get a driver's license and be done. We need the young people to participate in civic life; this bill will help achieve that.
