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To Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

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

Re: SB 70 Establishment of an election information portal

This bill has been at least three years in the making, and each year I have taken the opportunity to testify in favor of this common sense, 21st century bill. Last year it had the co-sponsorship of every member of this committee, which was wonderful. The unrealistic fiscal note was the problem, and I am pleased to see a much more realistic fiscal note this year.

According to a 2019 [report by the Brennan Center](#), “[e]very state that has modernized registration has saved money.” [1] Recent experiences by states across the country show that the costs involved in developing and implementing online voter registration are modest, and they pay for themselves quickly. In some places that have implemented online registration, per-voter registration processing costs have fallen by 95%. [2]

Testimony last year from town clerks confirmed that their work would be faster and more accurate using this election information portal rather than having people fill out paper forms, bad handwriting and all, at town offices or at the polling place on election day.

I commend the initiative of Sen. Gray on this bill, who handed me a draft amendment three years ago to institute an election information portal. I recall my response was to say, “You are my new BFF,” which was totally inappropriate in the context of a public hearing. But it was sincere.

The League’s mission of empowering voters will be fostered by this election information portal. Only 8 states, at last count I can find, don’t have online voter registration. While this portal may not create online voter registration per se, it comes mighty close, letting potential voters do much of the registration process in advance, from the comfort of their desks or phones.

In addition, the ability to change voter registration online when a voter moves, for example, is exactly the kind of thing that younger people expect and need. Spending time at the town clerk’s office is just not part of the mindset of younger voters in particular. This is the next generation of voters and we need to encourage them.

League of Women Voters New Hampshire supports SB 70.

Source: [1] Brennan Center for Justice, Feb. 2021

[2] Legal Defense Fund, August 2020 <https://www.naacpldf.org/naacp-publications/ldf-blog/online-voter-registration-good-for-states-good-for-voters/>