



4 Park St Room 200
Concord, NH 03301

www.LWVNH.org

Feb. 11, 2025

To: Senate Election Law Committee chair and members

From: Liz Tentarelli, president, League of Women Voters NH

Re: **SB219, joining ERIC**

On behalf of the League of Women Voters NH, a non-partisan organization dedicated to empowering voters, I urge you to recommend **Ought To Pass on SB 219**.

*The website for the **Electronic Registration Information Center** speaks for itself:*

As the official record of all eligible voters in a state, a state's voter registration rolls are the foundation of free, fair, and accurate elections. Most states are required by the federal National Voter Registration Act to "conduct a general program that makes a reasonable effort to remove the names of ineligible voters" from the rolls. States not subject to this federal law have state "list maintenance" laws aimed at keeping voter records up to date. Illegal voting is exceedingly rare but maintaining accurate voter rolls reduces the opportunity for such behavior and it helps build confidence in election outcomes.

Keeping voter registration rolls up to date is a challenge though, because, every day, voters move or die. Voters don't always remember to update their registration. Family members rarely report the death of a loved one to election officials. ERIC was created to address these challenges. "**Inaccurate, Costly, and Inefficient,**" [PEW Trusts.org] published in 2012, found that approximately 1 out of 8 voter registrations in the U.S. were no longer valid or significantly inaccurate, more than 1.8 million deceased individuals were listed as voters, and approximately 2.75 million people had registrations in more than one state. Additionally, the report estimated there were at least 51 million eligible U.S. citizens who were not registered - about 24 percent of the eligible population.

The seven states that founded ERIC in 2012 believed using state-of-the-art data matching technology, a robust and safe data sharing program built on widely accepted information security standards, and an unprecedented commitment to cooperation would vastly improve their ability to maintain accurate voter rolls. It would also have the added benefit of allowing them to reach out to unregistered, but likely eligible, individuals far more accurately and efficiently than anyone else.