

Voter Education and Assistance for New Voter Citizenship Requirements



New Hampshire Secretary of State
David M. Scanlan



Background

New Hampshire is exempt from the NVRA because it had EDR at the time of passage.

The five other exempt states are Idaho, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Wyoming and North Dakota.

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Background

New Hampshire requires voter to register with their town clerk or supervisors of the checklist.

Absentee registration can occur for absence or disability.

Division of Motor Vehicles has no role in the voter registration process.

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Background

Prior to 2025 voters could satisfy proof of qualifications (identity, age, domicile and citizenship) when registering to vote simply by signing an affidavit.

Limited post-election verification occurred by mail with citizenship affidavits having the worst response rate.

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HB 1569

Passed by the legislature in 2024 and became effective on November 11 of that year.

The bill eliminated the use of affidavits to prove qualifications for voter registration.

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HB 1569

To prove citizenship a voter must now produce a:

1. a birth certificate, or
2. a passport, or
3. naturalization papers, or
4. any other reasonable documentation which indicates the applicant is a U.S. citizen.

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Application of HB 1569

Towns held their local elections last spring under the new law.

Despite good media coverage, some voters needing to register lacked documentation.

Most, but not all, returned to the polling place with their documentation.



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Litigation

Two lawsuits have been filed in Federal District Court in Concord, NH.

Recent order reduced the number of counts and plaintiffs with standing.

Discovery is ongoing.



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Implementation

City Elections This Fall Through Mid-Terms

Critical Messaging

1. Awareness of the new law.
2. Procure documentation in advance of registering to vote.
3. Resources that can help



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Implementation

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Messaging

1. Traditional Media
2. Social Media
3. Direct Mail
4. Posters, Tent Cards



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Major saturation education effort (continued):

- 2) Outreach through developed contacts
 - Colleges and High Schools
 - Minority groups
 - Veterans
 - Disabilities Community
 - Businesses
 - Municipal and State Gov't offices

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Implementation

City Elections this fall through Mid-Terms

Set up a voter assistance center to help verify qualifications with Secretary of State links to various databases such as:

- Systematic Alien Verification Agreement (SAVE)
- Electronic Verification of Vital Events (EVVE)
- NH DMV – Real ID citizenship verification records
- NH Division of Vital Records
- NH and Federal Courts
- Business databases like Experian

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Implementation

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Where necessary ask the legislature for law changes to help implement a voter assistance program



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Thank You



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