



Secure Democracy
USA

House Bill 158 Boosts Confidence Through Greater Transparency

February 4, 2025

Dear Chairman Berry and Members of the House Election Law Committee,

My name is Diego Echeverri, Director of Advocacy for Secure Democracy USA, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to building stronger elections, state by state. I want to start by thanking Representative Hill for sponsoring House Bill 158, which takes an important step toward increasing transparency and public trust in New Hampshire's absentee voting process.

HB 158 enhances security and public confidence by requiring town and city clerks to make absentee ballot voter lists available for public inspection without a court order and directing the secretary of state to report absentee ballot data. By ensuring that this information is accessible, the bill strengthens election integrity, allowing voters and election observers to verify the process and detect potential irregularities.

Bolstering Election Security and Integrity Through Public Oversight

Public oversight is a critical safeguard against fraud and mismanagement. HB 158 empowers voters and election observers with access to absentee ballot voter lists, allowing for independent verification and early detection of any discrepancies. Proactive transparency measures like this help prevent misinformation and reinforce public trust in the electoral process. Other states that have implemented similar measures have seen greater public confidence in election administration while maintaining robust election security.

Ensuring Secure Election Reporting

The bill also requires the secretary of state to report on absentee ballot usage, enhancing election security by creating a standardized, transparent record of mail voting trends. Standardized reporting will ensure consistency across jurisdictions, reduce administrative errors, strengthen safeguards around absentee voting, and support informed decision-making for future election policies.

House Bill 158 is a necessary step to fortify election integrity, prevent misinformation, and reinforce voter confidence through transparency and oversight. Secure Democracy USA strongly supports HB 158 and urges the committee to advance it.

Secure Democracy USA is a nonpartisan, 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization building stronger elections, state by state. We advocate for practical election policy solutions guided by research and supported across the ideological spectrum.