

GRANITE STATE TAXPAYERS

Senate Bill 3 Hearing

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GST has long supported improvements to New Hampshire Voter law that would guarantee that only New Hampshire residents should decide the outcome of New Hampshire elections.

If special interests are able to affect elections with people who may or may not be domiciled in New Hampshire, the result would be detrimental to those who actually live and pay taxes here.

Currently, New Hampshire laws allow individuals to vote in a New Hampshire election without showing evidence of actually residing in New Hampshire.

SB3 requires New Hampshire voters to be New Hampshire residents and provide documentation of residency.

47 states and DC require voters to be residents, provide proof of residency, and be a resident for a period of time before being allowed to vote. In 27 states, that duration is 30 days.

In Massachusetts, voters unable to prove of residency before the polls close, lose their ability to vote in that election.

That voters should be residents of the political subdivision where they vote is not novel or "unconstitutional".

The Supreme Court stated in 1972 that:

States have the power to require that voters be bona fide residents of the relevant political subdivision.☐

In 2012 and 2014, 16,978 people registered to vote in New Hampshire using out of state ID.

GST Processed a Right-to-Know request to the Attorney General office asking how many of those people who registered actually got a NH drivers' license after the 60-day period as required by law. After two years no one in the State government has been able to check whether those registrants actually moved to New Hampshire.

The 2014 election for the US Senate was decided by 15,837 votes.

In 2016 6,540 voters registered with out-of-state drivers' license and 1,423 voted with no ID.

That means 7,963 new voters registered to vote using identification from another state, or no identification at all.

The 2016 election for the US Senate was decided by 1,017 votes.

Much discussion relates to the question of whether voter fraud exists.

No process exists and no responsibility is defined to determine whether people vote in New Hampshire and another State in the same election, or whether registrants using out of state ID actually move to New Hampshire and get a NH Driver License. As a result, with no one checking, there is no way to determine whether "voter fraud" exists.

Conversely, there is no way (and no justification) to honestly state that it doesn't exist.

When anyone can register using an out-of-state license on Election Day, and provide no proof of residency, fraud is almost impossible to find. What most people consider fraudulent can be done legally under current law.

Much discussion relates to assertion of "widespread voter fraud in New Hampshire."

New Hampshire knowingly allows people from other states to vote in our elections, without checking their legitimacy, in quantities large enough to determine the winners of our elections.

Whether that constitutes widespread fraud or not, it certainly does not demonstrate integrity in our elections.

GST urges the Legislature and Governor to pass SB3 to help keep New Hampshire elections for New Hampshire voters.