

Feedback on Elections Bill

VT SOS Perspectives on DR 25-0242 (Draft 1.5)

Testimony to House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs
February 28, 2025

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Principled Goals in Election Bill

Reduce
Administrative
Burden and
Improve Service

Improve Voter
Access

Promote
Transparency and
Accountability

Increase
Deliberative
Democracy

Align Statutes

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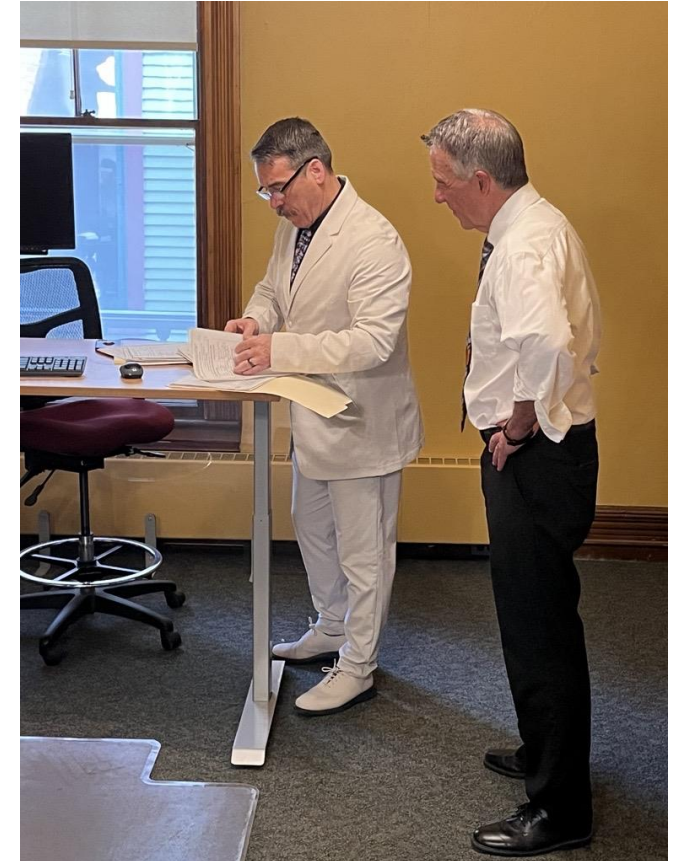
Promote
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Relevant Topics in Bill

- Write-in registration – *support with minor change*
- Change timeline to examine petitions from 72 hours to two business days – *support*
- Party Organization filing – *support*



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Relevant Topics in Bill

- Universal Vote by Mail in August Primary – *not without other changes*
- Expand Electronic Ballot Delivery to Safe at Home – *support*
- Electronic Ballot Return – *not without other changes*



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Relevant Sections

- Campaign finance registration and reporting - *support*
- Candidate demographic information with PRA exemption – *support*

Welcome to the Vermont
Campaign Finance System
Ensuring the Integrity of the Elections Process and Our Public Officials

For Filing Purposes Only

Log in Register

Log into an Existing Account

Username *
SSHEEHAN

Password *

Forgot Password?

Log in →

Browse Campaign Finance Data

Candidate Information Committee Information Contribution Information Expenditure Information

Filed Disclosure Reports Download Bulk Data

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Relevant Sections

- Ranked Choice Voting in 2028
Presidential Primary - *support*



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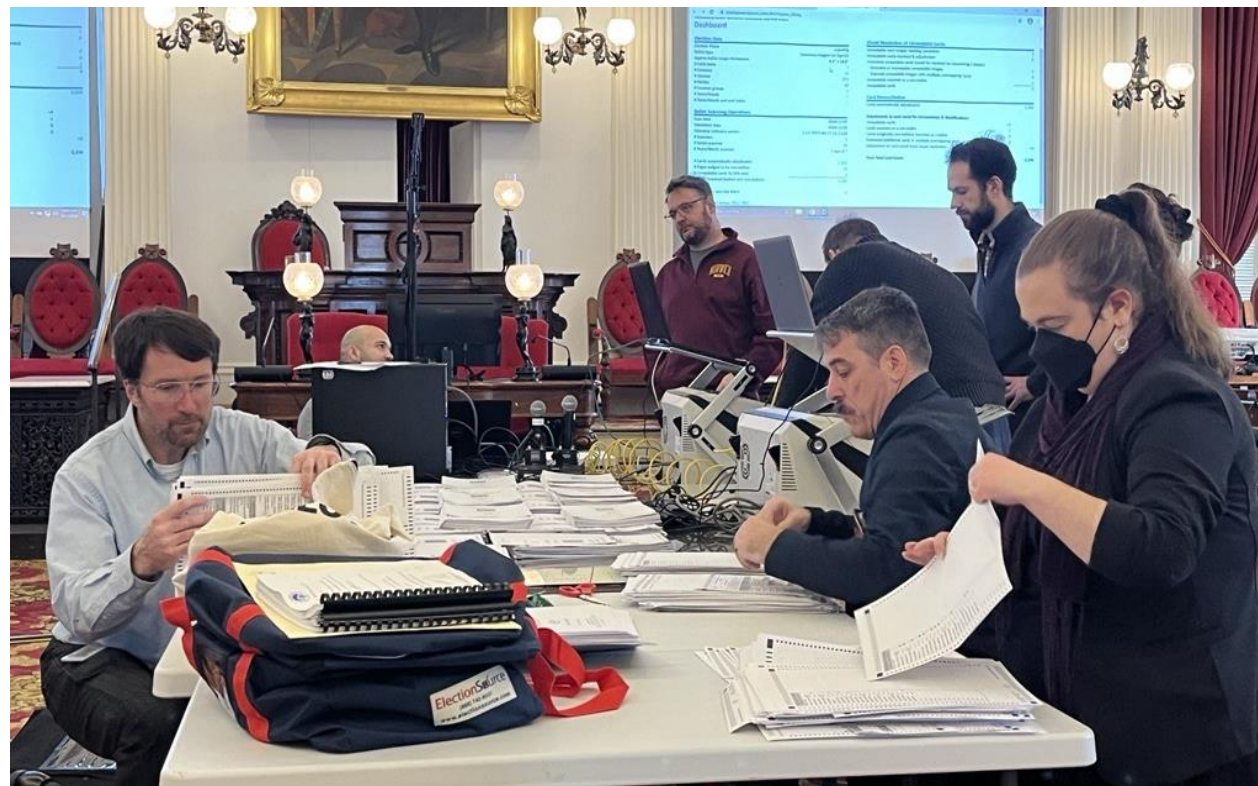
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Relevant Sections

- Voter Fraud - *support*
- Election Audit - *support*
- Timeline for opening returned ballots - *support*



Summary – Sections 2-10

Section and Topic	VTSOS Recommendation
Section 2: Changes to the Presidential Primary, including Ranked Choice Voting, Write-in Registration, and Review of Petitions	Support
Sections 3 and 4: Rulemaking and preparation for Ranked Choice Voting	Support
Sections 5, 6, and 7: Automatic Repeal of Ranked Choice Voting	Oppose
Sections 8 and 9: Ending Fusion Candidates	Policy Decision
Section 10: Universal Vote-by-Mail for the August Primary	Support UVBM in principle but not this language at this time without other changes

Summary - Sections 11-24

Section and Topic	VTSOS Recommendation
Section 11: Electronic Ballots Delivery to Voter – Expand to Safe at Home Population	Support, and suggest alignment with federal definition of overseas voter
Sections 12 and 13: Electronic Ballot Return from Voter	Oppose until we have full confidence in security
Sections 14, 15, and 16: Candidate Demographic Information	Support
Sections 17, 18, and 19: Write-in Candidate Registration	Support, with minor language clarification change to unregistered write-in reporting
Sections 20, 21, 22, and 23: Campaign Finance	Support
Section 24: Audit of Voter Checklists and District Boundaries	Alternate language proposed in previous testimony

Summary - Sections 25-30

Section and Topic	VTSOS Recommendation
Sections 25 and 26: Voter Fraud	Support
Section 27: Campaign Finance and Public Question Campaigns	Support
Section 28: Review Period to Examine Petitions	Support
Section 29: Contact Information in Certificate of Organization for State Committee of Party	Support, with addition of either phone number or email
Section 30: Deadline for Nomination of JPs	Support

Summary - Sections 31-41

Section and Topic	VTSOS Recommendation
Section 31: Post Election Audit	Support
Section 32: Opening Ballots	Support
Section 33: OML and Annual Meeting	Support
Sections 34-35: Local Elections	Policy Decision
Section 36: Local Elections	Policy Decision, though encourage consultation with clerks on change in filing deadline
Sections 37-40: Local Elections	Policy Decision
Sections 41: Effective Date	Support

More Information

2024 Election Highlights

- Total votes: 372,885 – record high
- Early/absentee votes: >230,000
(>60% of total, similar to 2022)
- ~520,000 registered – record high
 - More than 6,900 same day registrations on Nov. 5

Elections Division Contact

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