

Vermont Senate Committee on Government Operations

Vermont State House

115 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05633

Re: Support for S.297 – Mobile Voting Opt-In Legislation

Dear Members of the Legislature,

On behalf of Civics Unplugged, we write in strong support of legislation that would allow municipalities to opt in to offering secure mobile voting in city elections.

Civics Unplugged is a national nonprofit that helps young innovators confront systemic challenges head-on, generating a continuous abundance of innovative and impactful solutions for our communities and our democracy. We work with student fellows and alumni in every state across the country who are deeply committed to strengthening civic life and expanding participation in the democratic process.

Through our work, we consistently hear from young people who care deeply about their communities but struggle to engage with traditional voting systems. Young voters often face significant barriers, including limited transportation, demanding school and work schedules, caregiving responsibilities, and frequent moves for education or employment. These challenges make it harder for many young people to participate consistently in local elections.

At the same time, young voters are digital natives who manage their education, finances, healthcare, and communication through technology. It is increasingly difficult for them to understand why voting—one of the most important civic responsibilities—has not kept pace with the tools they use every day.

That is why accessible, secure voting options that responsibly use new technology are so important. When implemented with strong safeguards, mobile voting can expand access while maintaining transparency and trust. Offered as an additional option alongside existing methods, it can help ensure that more young people are able to participate in shaping their communities.

The Mobile Voting Project has been a strong partner in this work because it meets young voters where they are—on their phones. By combining modern technology with rigorous security standards, mobile voting platforms demonstrate that innovation and election integrity can coexist.

Legislation that allows municipalities to opt in to mobile voting respects local control while encouraging thoughtful experimentation. It gives communities the flexibility to explore new ways to engage residents and build lifelong civic habits among young voters.

By supporting this legislation, you affirm that democracy must evolve to remain inclusive, relevant, and representative of all generations. You help ensure that young people are not only heard during major national elections, but also empowered to participate in the local decisions that affect their daily lives.

We respectfully urge you to support this effort and to continue advancing policies that strengthen participation, equity, and innovation in our democratic systems.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to the future of our democracy.

Sincerely,
Civics Unplugged