

Vermont Senate Committee on Government Operations

Vermont State House

115 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05633

Re: Support for S.279 – Mobile Voting Opt-In Legislation

February 2, 2026

Dear Members of the Senate Government Operations Committee,

My name is Lucrecia Wonsor, and I am writing in support of **S.297**, which would allow Vermont municipalities to opt in to offering secure mobile voting as an additional option in local elections.

As a former Killington Town Clerk and Treasurer, I have firsthand experience with the administrative, financial, and logistical challenges that towns face in administering elections. Clerks and local officials work diligently to ensure that every election is accurate, accessible, and well-managed, often with limited resources and staffing. Any tool that can responsibly improve efficiency and reduce administrative burden deserves careful consideration.

Mobile voting, when implemented with strong safeguards and state oversight, has the potential to create meaningful efficiencies and cost savings for towns. Streamlining certain aspects of ballot distribution, processing, and voter outreach could help reduce printing, mailing, and staffing costs, while allowing clerks to focus more time on voter support, compliance, and election integrity.

Additionally, mobile voting would offer a secure solution to enhance engagement with military and overseas voters. While current procedures permit electronic ballots to be sent to these individuals, they are still required to print and mail the completed ballots back to the Clerk. This process often results in ballots not being received in time to be counted. By implementing mobile voting, military and overseas voters could securely and efficiently return their ballots in a more timely manner.

Importantly, S.297 respects Vermont's tradition of local control. The bill does not mandate mobile voting but instead gives towns and cities the authority to decide for themselves whether this option is appropriate for their communities. This flexibility ensures that each municipality can weigh its own needs, capacity, and priorities before adopting any new voting method.

Vermont has long been recognized as a center of civic participation and thoughtful innovation. Our commitment to town meeting, local governance, and voter engagement reflects a deep respect for democracy at the community level. S.297 builds on that tradition by encouraging responsible innovation while preserving the high standards Vermonters expect from our election systems.

From my experience in municipal administration, I believe this legislation offers a practical, balanced approach to strengthening participation, supporting local officials, and managing public resources

wisely. I respectfully urge you to support S.297 and provide communities with the tools they need to serve voters effectively.

Thank you for your service and for your careful consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,

*Lucrecia Wonsor*

**Lucrecia Wonsor**

Retired Killington Town Clerk and Treasurer