

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 Senate Committee on Government Operations

I am writing in support of **S.297**, legislation that would allow cities to **opt in to mobile voting for municipal elections if they choose**.

I spent **30 years in the United States military**, including leading the **integration of all National Guard cybersecurity forces into U.S. Cyber Command**. I now live near **Fort Meade**, and ensuring that **military voters can reliably access the ballot** is not an abstract policy issue for me—it is personal and practical. I have seen, firsthand, how logistical barriers and outdated systems can prevent otherwise eligible and motivated service members from fully participating in our democracy.

When I was first introduced to mobile voting, I approached it with exactly the level of skepticism you would expect from someone who worked closely with **Cyber Command and the National Security Agency**. My professional career has been spent both **breaking into systems and defending them**. I do not take election security lightly, and I would not lend my support to any system that failed to meet a high technical and security bar.

After examining the technology closely—particularly systems that rely on **open-source software, end-to-end verification, and independent security review**—I believe mobile voting can be implemented responsibly and securely. In fact, I believe it has the potential to solve a problem I have witnessed and lived with for years: eligible voters, especially those in the military, being functionally excluded by distance, deployment, or access constraints.

This legislation does not mandate mobile voting. It preserves **local control**, allowing cities to decide for themselves whether and how to adopt it, within a secure and transparent framework set by the state. That flexibility is critical. Communities can pilot, evaluate, and proceed only if the technology meets their standards and the expectations of their voters.

I would not support this legislation if I did not believe it could be done securely. Based on my experience defending critical systems and assessing real-world threats, I believe that—with the right safeguards—mobile voting can expand access while protecting the integrity of our elections.

I respectfully urge you to support **[Bill Number/Name]** and to give local governments the option to modernize municipal elections in a way that is secure, transparent, and worthy of public trust.

Sincerely,
Sam Kinch