

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

Dear Members of the Senate Government Operations Committee,

My name is Tommy Alfano, and I am writing in support of **S.297**, which would allow Vermont municipalities to opt in to secure mobile voting for local elections.

I live in Dorset, Vermont, and will soon be graduating from Burr and Burton Academy. I am a Fellow with Civics Unplugged and have worked as a student legislative advocate on a range of civic issues because I believe strongly in the importance of youth participation in our democracy.

Next year, I will begin my freshman year at the University of Pennsylvania. While I am committed to continuing to vote in Vermont, I know from experience that doing so while living out of state is not always easy. Between academic demands, limited access to transportation, and complicated absentee voting processes, many students struggle to stay engaged in local elections once they leave home.

For my generation, mobile technology is a natural part of daily life. We manage our healthcare, banking, education, and communication through our phones. Yet voting—one of the most important civic responsibilities—often remains disconnected from the tools we rely on. Secure mobile voting, offered as an additional option, would help ensure that Gen Z voters can participate consistently and confidently, even when we are away at school or balancing demanding schedules.

Students today are busy, mobile, and deeply concerned about issues that affect their communities. However, rigid voting systems and logistical barriers too often prevent young people from turning that concern into participation. Mobile voting could help meet students where they are and make it easier for us to have our voices heard in local decision-making.

I appreciate that election security and integrity must always be a top priority. With appropriate safeguards, oversight, and transparency, S.297 provides a responsible way for communities to explore innovation while preserving trust in Vermont’s elections.

By supporting this legislation, Vermont can continue to lead in civic engagement and demonstrate that young people's voices matter. I respectfully urge you to advance S.297 and give municipalities the option to strengthen participation for students and future generations.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration.

Sincerely,  
**Tommy Alfano**  
Dorset, Vermont