

Wade J. Henderson

Civil and Human Rights

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

February 3, 2026

Dear Members of the Legislature,

I write in strong support of legislation that would allow jurisdictions to adopt secure mobile voting as an optional method in local elections.

Throughout my career in the civil rights movement—including serving as the longtime president and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights—I have worked to protect and expand the fundamental right to vote. History teaches us that access to the ballot is never guaranteed; it must be defended and strengthened as our society changes. Barriers to participation do not always appear as explicit prohibitions. More often, they emerge through systems that fail to keep pace with the realities of people's lives.

Mobile voting presents an opportunity to confront those modern barriers. Too many eligible voters—particularly people of color, people with disabilities, seniors, young voters, military families, and working Americans—face obstacles such as transportation challenges, inflexible work schedules, mobility limitations, or distance from polling locations. When these barriers persist, communities are effectively excluded from decisions that shape their schools, neighborhoods, and economic futures.

Civil rights has always been about ensuring both the right to vote and the practical ability to exercise that right. Secure mobile voting, offered as an additional option alongside existing methods, aligns with that principle. When built with transparency, end-to-end verification, and strong security safeguards, mobile voting can expand participation without compromising election integrity.

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The civil rights movement has long embraced innovation when it advances justice—from expanding voter registration tools to enforcing language access and disability accommodations. Mobile voting continues that tradition by meeting voters where they are and recognizing that democracy must evolve to remain inclusive.

Legislation that enables jurisdictions to opt in to mobile voting reflects a commitment to equity, local empowerment, and the promise of a more representative democracy. I urge you to support this effort and take a meaningful step toward ensuring that our democratic systems work for all people—not just those with the fewest barriers to participation.

Thank you for your leadership and your continued commitment to civil and human rights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wade Henderson", followed by a long horizontal line.

Wade Henderson
Former President & CEO
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

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