

HB 319

Sponsored by Representative Candace Newell



Reason for Polling Place Changes

House Bill 319 would require that when a polling location is changed, that the reason for the change must be identified online. In recent years, polling locations have been changed ahead of elections due to storms, power outages, staffing concerns, and other last minute local changes.

This bill is the next step after the success of 2022 Act 652, which ensures that the locations of polling places that have changed are posted publicly on the Secretary of State's website. This legislation would expand upon the success of this law to ensure voters and organizers are able to better understand why a polling site changed and if it is a permanent or temporary relocation.

Closing polling locations can be used as a voter suppression tactic. Polling locations that are closed often require voters to drive further to cast their votes, and last minute changes can make it more difficult for people to know where to cast their vote. **A recent report by The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights found that in Louisiana, voters have 126 fewer places to vote than they did in 2012. These closures often happen in communities of color that may already be under resourced.**

Requiring the parish governing authority or parish president to include the reason for the change with his notice of the change of a polling location will make this process more transparent and work to reduce voter suppression.



For more info
on HB 319

