



2026 Legislative Priorities: Mid-Session Update

CLIMATE & ENERGY

Bringing plug-in solar to Vermont: We are working to make Vermont the second state (after Utah) to enable portable, affordable, plug-in solar. Currently, many Vermonters – especially renters – are effectively locked out of the solar transition, exacerbating existing energy inequalities. **Legislation (S.202) enabling plug-in solar that would begin to change that passed the Senate 29-0 and is now being considered in the House Energy and Digital Infrastructure Committee.**

Codifying appliance efficiency standards: The Trump administration is working to roll back many of these standards, which would allow costly, inefficient, energy-wasting appliances into the market. **We're working to pass legislation this session (H.600) adopting all current federal appliance efficiency standards into Vermont state rule.**

We're also: Working to **prevent new barriers to solar development** as proposed in S.323; pushing hard to **further strengthen legislation (H.727) addressing high-energy-use data centers; ensure protections against the risks of nuclear power and waste** are not weakened; and pass and fund legislation that would **strengthen Vermont's greenhouse gas reporting efforts (H.740).**

DEMOCRACY

Establishing a Vermont Voter Rights Act: One of our nation's most important civil rights laws, the 1965 Voting Rights Act, is being dismantled at the federal level. We are working to protect the rights of traditionally underrepresented citizens by passing a Vermont Voting Rights Act. **A version of this legislation (S.298) passed the Senate on a 28-0 vote.**

Closing the lobbyist advertising disclosure loophole: We're also pressing to close a lobbying disclosure loophole in current law that allows organizations like the Koch Network's Americans for Prosperity to spend big on advertising that appears to be designed to take down climate champions and sow fear and doubt about climate action while avoiding timely and complete spending disclosure to the state. **Legislation that would close this loophole passed out of the House on a voice vote.**

We're also: Working to move forward "**corporate power reset**" **legislation (S.322)**, which would leverage the state's ability to modify corporate charters to exclude the power of corporations to engage in political spending; and **supporting a bill (S.23 - now signed by the governor) that would require disclosures of synthetic media usage** in campaign ads.

FIGHTING AUTHORITARIANISM

Requiring law enforcement identification: We've seen how callous and cruel the Trump administration's immigration enforcement efforts have been across the country. That's why we're proud to support legislation that would require law enforcement officers to clearly identify themselves during enforcement actions, including a ban on officers from wearing masks outside of extreme circumstances. **This legislation (S.208) passed the Senate on a 27-2 vote and is currently being considered by the House Judiciary Committee.**

Establishing protections for sensitive locations: As part of our efforts to safeguard our communities, we are also supporting legislation (S.209) that would protect Vermonters by prohibiting civil arrests in sensitive locations like schools, shelters, and healthcare facilities. **This bill also passed the Senate on a 27-2 vote, and is under consideration in the House Judiciary Committee.**

We're also: Monitoring legislation (H.849) that would provide individuals the ability to **bring action against government officials that interfere with constitutional rights**; and celebrating the adoption of resolutions (S.R.21 & H.R.12) **condemning the deadly overreach we've seen from federal immigration enforcement officers.**

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & ZERO WASTE

Reducing the quantity and toxicity of plastic pollution: Nearly everyone agrees that there is too much plastic in our lives and in our environment. That plastic is often toxic and very little is recycled. The plastics industry uses deceptive marketing to profit at our expense. We're supporting legislation that would ban so-called chemical recycling, restrict intentionally added microplastics in certain products, and prohibit toxic DEHP in medical IV bags and tubing. **While the main bill dealing with this (S.247) did not meet the crossover deadline, we are exploring opportunities to incorporate aspects of this bill into related legislation.**

Banning the harmful pesticide paraquat: Paraquat is a highly toxic herbicide that has been linked to Parkinson's disease and other serious health harms. While more than 70 countries have banned its use, paraquat continues to put U.S. farmers, communities, and ecosystems at risk. **Legislation banning paraquat (H.739) passed the House on a voice vote.**

We're also: Supporting legislation that would make modest but **important improvements to Vermont's popular Bottle Bill recycling program**; and advocating for legislation that would **require manufacturers to test for heavy metals in baby foods and make those results publicly available.**

CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTHCARE

Strengthening Vermont's Data Broker Law: VPIRG is supporting legislation to strengthen our first-in-the nation data broker law by: requiring data brokers to honor deletion requests from Vermont consumers and developing a state-run portal that would allow Vermonters to delete their data with all data brokers through a simple process. **This bill (H.211) passed the House on a voice vote.**

Establishing a right-to-repair for medical devices: We continue to advocate for right-to-repair laws that would require manufacturers to provide consumers and independent repair technicians access—on fair and reasonable terms—to the parts, tools and documentation necessary to fix the products we own. We're supporting legislation that would establish a medical-device-right-to-repair so hospitals and medical providers can fix their equipment in-house—providing more timely care for Vermonters and helping drive down health care costs. **This bill (H.160) did not meet the crossover deadline, but we're exploring opportunities to incorporate it into related legislation.**

Setting up a Vermont Prescription Drug Discount Card program: We're supporting a proposal led by Treasurer Mike Pieciak to join a collaboration of state governments working together to secure lower prices on prescriptions for their residents. **The program is called ArrayRx, and a bill (H.577) authorizing Vermont to join this effort passed out of the House on a voice vote.**

We're also: Working to **give consumers of genetic testing companies more control** over their genetic data; **banning the use of surveillance pricing**; and enacting a **comprehensive consumer data privacy law** that meaningfully addresses the overcollection and misuse of sensitive consumer data.