



**GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
TESTIMONY February 28, 2007**

Submitted by: George Cody, ROVAC Pres.

**In Support of: SB1312; AAC Certain Compensation of Registrars of Voters
HB5300; AAC Late Mail-in Voter Registration Applications.**

Senator Schlossberg, Representative Caruso and members of the GAE Committee; My name is George Cody, Registrar of Voters, New Canaan and President of the Registrar of Voters Association of Connecticut. Today, you have before you over thirty election related bills, two of which I would like to briefly comment on.

This is an exciting and challenging time for Registrars and lawmakers across the state. The Registrars of Voters Association is extremely grateful to the GAE leadership and their staff who have done so much to facilitate the legislative package we are presenting today. Several Registrars will be discussing those bills which are the core of the election reform package. As President of ROVAC, I want to publicly acknowledge the extraordinary work of our Legislative Committee in their review of existing statutes, and in numerous meetings with the Secretary of the State's staff, a number of agencies and in reviewing procedures and recommendations from the twenty-five towns that tested the Marksense equipment in last year's state election.

HB5300 AAC Late Mail-in Voter Registration Applications, first introduced in the last session, addresses the opportunities for applicants to register to vote in person in the Registrars offices up to seven days prior to an election. The bill encourages Registrars to contact by phone or mail those applicants whose registration forms arrived after the 14-day mail-in deadline, advising them of the opportunity to appear in person up to the seven-day deadline. This is already being done by Registrars across the state whenever possible, and we would welcome wider usage.

SB1312 AAC Certain Compensation of Registrars of Voters, addresses municipal reimbursement of Registrars for costs associated with attendance at two conferences per year called by the Secretary Of State to discuss election procedures and to enable training classes for Registrars and their deputies. In April, Registrars will gather here in Hartford for their Spring Conference, at which classes will be offered in Marksense Tabulator operations, Setting up of Polling Places, discussion of new forms and paperwork related to the new election procedures, and training tools for polling place workers. These classes will also be credited towards the certification requirements (9-192 & 192 a&b) passed by the Legislature two years ago. This conference will also include two half-day training sessions conducted by the SOTS's Office, along with vendor displays of new election supplies. Participation at this and other conferences are essential to the operation of our offices, and reimbursement of actual costs should be standard across the state.

I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have on these or any of the bills under consideration today. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss these proposals with any legislators or staff who have any questions, and we thank the committee for their time today.

Tuesday, February 27, 2007