

The Connecticut General Assembly

House Democrats



REPRESENTATIVE KELVIN ROLDAN
FOURTH DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 1001
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106

CAPITOL PHONE: (860) 240-8585
E-MAIL: Kelvin.Roldan@cga.ct.gov

MEMBER
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

Testimony Submitted to:

The Connecticut General Assembly Government Administration and Elections Committee

February 28, 2007

Hearing on H.B. 5977, An Act Concerning The Placement of Political Parties On The Ballot

Good morning Sen. Gayle Slossberg and Rep. Christopher Caruso, Sen. Edward Meyer and Rep. Diana Urban, Sen. Judith Freedman and Rep. John Hetherington, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to come before you today to testify in support of H.B. 5977, An Act Concerning The Placement of Political Parties On The Ballot.

Ballot placement decisions across the country are based on different standards. Some States decide based on determination by the state election official, by lottery, alphabetical order, by date of candidacy filing and on the most votes cast for governor at the last election, as is the case in Connecticut. Some states have begun to reconsider how this determination is made. Most recently the New Hampshire Supreme Court declared unconstitutional their state's procedure for listing first the names of candidates whose party had received the most votes in the preceding state general election.

It is my assertion that these laws do not serve a purpose other than determining an order for placement. The passage of H.B. 5977, in addition to serving the basic need of having a basis for selection, also places greater responsibility on parties to become more active in the process. Linking the ballot decision to the number of registered voters in the State, giving the party with the most registered voters top placement, would provide an incentive for parties to spend

time registering voters thus increasing participation in statewide and local elections. Currently, according to the Secretary of State's Office, there are approximately 500,000 eligible individuals in the State of Connecticut that are not registered to vote. It is on us to target those individuals and get them involved in the Democratic process.

Thank you for your time and consideration.