



February 18, 2009
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

Testimony in support of Senate Bill 917 AAC THE TRAINING OF
REGISTRARS OF VOTERS.

Senator Slossberg, Representative Spallone, and members of the committee

I am Pamela Rapacz, a member of ROVAC, Chair of Legislative Committee
and Registrar of Voters in Wethersfield.

I am here today in support of Senate Bill 917 An Act Concerning the
training of Registrars.

As you know there has been major changes in election laws, how elections
are run, and even how elections are secured in the last couple of years.
As Registrars we are on the front line of those changes. From the testing of
the voting equipment, the setup of the polling place, the training of
pollworkers, and the security of all phases of elections are our responsibility.
Registrars have stepped up to the challenges to keep our Elections the most
secure in the nation. Now we need your help.

We need more training, The Secretary of the State in response to 89 new
Registrars has started the training on the statewide voter registration system
again in their computer lab. That is a start but more complete and in depth
training is needed to professionalize our office and certification of our
Registrars is the answer. A Certification Committee consisting of SOTS,
SEEC, and ROVAC was established in 1997 & again in 2007 and The
Committee set the standards, curriculum, training and testing required to
reach certification for Registrars of Voters.

The Committee finished their work in 2008 and sent it on to the Secretary of
the State but the program has not been implemented. ROVAC has been
ready to implement this program but is waiting for the SOTS to respond to
our document.

We want it implemented now. We have too much at stake, including the
security and reliability of our elections to wait any longer for the state-wide
certification of all Registrars of Voters.

I also support Senate Bill 909 and House Bill 6440, both bills have technical
changes to the law that ROVAC has tried to get passed in previous sessions.

Thank you for taking my testimony, I will be glad to answer any questions.