



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

CGA Government Administration and Elections Committee

March 1, 2010 Public Hearing

Comments Submitted By Christine S. Horrigan, Government Director

Support For:

HB 5321 AAC A PILOT PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPAL PRIMARY REGISTRATION

SB 287 AAC ACCESSIBLE VOTING FOR VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES
OR NEEDING ASSISTANCE

SB 290 AAC THE PUBLICATION OF STATE AGENCY REGULATIONS ON THE INTERNET

My name is Christine Horrigan. I am Government Director for the League of Women Voters of Connecticut, a statewide organization with over 2000 members dedicated to improving the electoral process. On behalf of the League, I would like to thank you for giving the League the opportunity to comment upon the bills that are before the Committee today.

HB 5321 AAC A PILOT PROGRAM FOR MUNICIPAL PRIMARY REGISTRATION

The League is a long time proponent of Election Day Registration for all federal, state and local elections. States with Election Day Registration have voter turnout rates that are 3 to 6% higher than the national average. In particular, Election Day Registration encourages first time voters, young people and new residents to cast their votes.

Over the years, the League has listened carefully to those who have not supported same day registration based upon concerns ranging from voter fraud to increased Election Day workload. Taking these concerns into account, the League and its coalition partners, together with supportive legislators, developed a legislative proposal for an EDR demonstration project for the 2008 presidential primaries.

HB 5321 would establish a same day registration program for municipal primaries held in 2011. We believe that a pilot program for municipal primaries is relatively simple and easy and can provide information regarding the benefits and pitfalls of same day registration in a relatively controlled and limited election environment. Additionally, a same day registration program for primaries only extends the period for registration by 18 hours since you can register for a primary up to noon the day before. For these reasons, the League strongly supports HB 5321.

SB 287 AAC ACCESSIBLE VOTING FOR VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES OR NEEDING ASSISTANCE

The League supports expanded opportunity for *unbiased* ballot information at the polls. Accordingly, the League joins with ROVAC in supporting this bill which would prohibit any candidate running for any office on the ballot from helping a voter complete a ballot at the polls.

SB 290 AAC THE PUBLICATION OF STATE AGENCY REGULATIONS ON THE INTERNET

The League believes that democratic government depends upon the *informed* and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies make public records accessible. As a matter of transparency and convenience, we support requiring state agencies to post their regulations on their websites.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment upon these bills.