



# Town of Simsbury

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## Office of the Registrar of Voters

February 14, 1011

### GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

#### Testimony in support of S.B. No. 384, AN ACT CONCERNING THE NUMBER OF POLLING PLACES AND MODERATORS FOR PRIMARIES

Senators Slossberg and Meyer, Representatives Morin and Lesser, and members of the committee, I am Karen Cortés, Democratic Registrar of Voters for the Town of Simsbury, and member of the Registrar of Voters Association of Connecticut. I am submitting testimony today in support of Senate Bill No. 384, An Act Concerning the number of Polling Places and Moderators for Primaries.

Simsbury's voter turnout is consistently high— Republican turnout for the 2010 state primary was the highest in the state, and our town was recently honored with the Democracy Cup for highest turnout for a town of our size statewide.

Even with such strong voter participation, Simsbury could easily accommodate the number of primary voters appearing at the polls in fewer locations than are used for the general election. A full 42.5% of the Connecticut electorate is ineligible to vote in primaries, and among the remaining eligible voters, turnout is comparatively low. This bill would allow Registrars to determine the number of locations needed to accommodate voters, allow us to share an election moderator, and provides for notification of affected voters.

Using the 2010 Primary as an example, Simsbury could have easily consolidated our four polling locations to a single location—as we do for our town's budget referendum. Reducing the number of polling locations and sharing a mutually agreed upon Moderator would achieve reduced poll staffing, office staffing, equipment moving, and memory card programming expenses. Under S.B. #384 Simsbury could have saved approximately \$10,000— savings which could be replicated in towns across our state. While taxpayer savings are achieved, we also hope that the notification portion of this bill will increase voter awareness.

I would strongly suggest adding a population cutoff to the final language of this bill in consideration of Connecticut's cities, where reducing or changing polling locations could not be achieved as easily as for small and medium sized towns.

I submit my testimony today with the full support of my Republican colleague Registrar Margaret Diachenko.

Thank you.

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