

My name is Joan Jenkins, I am the Vice Chairperson of the State Elections Enforcement Commission - and I absolutely support the position of Chairman Cashman.

I am a life long fifth generation citizen of the State of Connecticut, and a member of a community of family and friends who are committed to fair and progressive government. I am delighted by and supportive of Governor Malloy's proactive stance to reduce our state's anticipated deficit. However, as I understand his plan to merge Connecticut's five state watchdog agencies the old adage that immediately comes to mind, is penny wise and pound foolish.

I believe there is a way to respond to this crisis without undermining the effectiveness and independence of these agencies, and for the sake of the citizenry of our state, I strongly urge that other options be explored with the help of those who are experts in the five different and complex areas of law involved here.

I have put in numerous hours, both as a member of the Ethics Commission and as a member of the Elections Enforcement Commission, and I have witnessed the hours that staff, other commissioners, and legislators have put into developing and supporting a system that is independent, transparent, honest, and free from political pressure and influence. We have worked hard to open a way for those who, in a less level playing field, would not be able to run for political office.

It is difficult for me to believe that serious consideration is being given to reinstating a system that has all of the trappings, whether purposeful or not, of putting the fox back in charge of the hen house.

Let me reiterate, I do not believe that Gov. Malloy wants the result that he is likely to get if his proposal, as I understand it, is implemented. I cannot imagine that the limited savings projected will actually be realized given the cost of implementing such a plan and I am absolutely certain that it is not in the interest of the citizens of Connecticut to take such a giant step backward.

I thank you for your time.