



State of Connecticut

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Senator Gayle Slossberg, Senate Chairman
Representative Russell Morin, House Chairman
Senator Michael McLachlan, Ranking Member
Representative Tony Hwang, Ranking Member

Date: March 11, 2011 Public Hearing

Re: Testimony *In Support of Raised House Bill 5727, An Act Concerning Post-Election Audit Procedures*

Thank you for raising **House Bill 5727** for a public hearing. This bill seeks to remedy a jeopardy in the precinct selection process for post-election audits. By way of pertinent background, after an election cycle, the Secretary of the State's office randomly selects the precincts whose votes will be audited from a barrel. The Town of Lyme, a single precinct entity, has been randomly selected for post-election audit at least 3 times in the last 5 election cycles. The audit costs time and money and produces a hardship on small towns. Current statute caps the number of precincts that can be audited in large towns to prevent this type of hardship on cities, but currently makes no provision for small towns. Small towns, because they often are a single-precinct entity, end up having a higher jeopardy of audit under current statute. In an attempt to find remedies for this situation, I ask the committee to consider the following options:

- After an audit, a single precinct town could be guaranteed a four year exemption which essentially means a waiver from audit for the next two election cycles.
- If statute caps the number of precincts that can be audited in large towns/cities, then a possible legislative solution might be to cap the number of times that small towns with a population under a certain threshold can be audited within a given interval.

Thank you again for raising this bill for public hearing. I respectfully urge your consideration of this proposal.