

# GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 11, 2011

## **Testimony of Judith Beaudreau, Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut (ROVAC)**

Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin, and members of the Committee

My name is Judith Beaudreau; I am a Registrar of Voters from Vernon CT. I am supplying you written testimony on all bills listed that might concern our registrars of voter's offices or the election process. You have a lot of bills on the agenda. I will be as brief as possible.

### **Proposed SB 392 AAC Election Notices Placed Jointly By Towns**

This is a wonderful idea. But I do not see that it needs legislative action. Towns can agree to do this now. ROVAC Board has also talked about implementing this in the fall for all of our voter making sessions. All of these sessions are the same state wide, this should be easy and a total cost savings to all towns. Any special sessions that the Registrars do, they will advertise themselves.

Having the Call to an Election changed from a **legal Ad to a published notice** would be very cost effective for municipal budgets. Legal ads are very expensive and if you are a lawyer then you probably have read them. If you are John Q American, I guarantee, that you have not read them nor do most of our average voters read the legal ads.

### **Proposed SB 393 AAC Access To Absentee Ballots For Referendum Vote.**

Generally there are absentees for referendum but an adjourned town meeting or any referenda held in 2 weeks, there are no absentees available other than in person. There is no time to mail. If one is thinking about voters with disabilities – we do have curb side voting. This means an Elector who can manage to get to the polling place can have election officials provide them with a ballot in the parking lot. We have done this many times in my town.

### **Proposed SB 753 AAC On Line Voting For Military Personnel Stationed Out Of State.**

Concept is excellent and other states are doing this now. We really are behind the times...

### **Proposed SB 804 AAC Recurring Post-Election Audits**

This concept is extremely different. I am against this concept as stated. This is not a way to show transparency. 10 years is a long time. Equipment will have failures and that will not be noticed. We need to audit our Mark Sense Tabulator Machines proving that the tabulators are counting our ballots properly.

ROVAC presented an Audit bill #940 that had a public hearing on 2-14-11 that is a unique way to do audits by an independent machine. This machine when approved by SOTS will decrease the costs of audits. It will also reduce inaccuracies now caused with hand counts.

### **Proposed HB 5454 AAC The Uniform Military And Overseas Voters Act**

We strongly agree that this act be adopted and implemented.

### **Proposed HB 5727 AAC Post-Election Audit**

I am against this as written. Registrars want to maintain public trust in Elections and make them as transparent as we can. Audits are a way to show this transparency. A 4 year exemption is not making the election transparent. See message in SB 804.

### **Proposed HB 5732 AAC Receipts For Certain Types Of Ballots**

Receipts for voting - not a good idea. Totally against this concept as written. In some states such receipts are bought and sold for votes. CT does not need this problem.

### **Proposed HB 5750 AAC Making Election Day A Legal Holiday**

While we all wish more people would vote – we do not see this as a benefit for working people. Most people have hours before or after work. In CT we vote 6 AM to 8 PM and also have available absentee ballots for those who cannot get to the polls during that time.

### **Proposed HB 5751 AAC Conflicts Of Interest For Registrars Of Voters**

Totally agree with this proposal. Registrars should recuse themselves or not be candidates for their town committees. These 3 major cities should not be singled out. Make it for all 169 municipalities.

### **Proposed HJ 33 Resolution Proposing An Amendment To The State Constitution To Provide Early Voting.**

While all these inventive ideas & concepts for voting other than in polling places are being done in other states, some have proved to be better than others. Strongly think that just taking the absentee process out of our state Constitution is the first & only step that we should undertake at this time. Form a task force to investigate all other forms of voting before enacting on a new path only to find out and realizing that this was not the way to go. We need to take one step at a time.

ROVAC is willing to work with the committee on any of these proposed issues & concepts.

Thank you for taking the time to read these thoughts!