

CGA Government Administration and Elections Committee

March 21, 2012 Public Hearing

Comments provided by: Susan Voris, Election Specialist, League of Women Voters of Connecticut

Support for:

SB437 AAC Changes to Election Laws

My name is Susan Voris. I am the Election Specialist for the League of Women Voters of Connecticut. As an organization, the League has been dedicated to improving the electoral process. I thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

The League supports adequate training and assistance for registrars and all election workers to ensure uniform adherence to federal and state laws. The League also believes that adequate funding and support for state agencies responsible for supervising elections, enforcing election laws, and assuring the integrity of voting technology are fundamental to protecting citizens' right to vote and having their votes counted accurately.

Section 1 of SB437 ensures that the State Elections Enforcement Committee investigates a complaint against a Registrar of Voter for misconduct, willful and material neglect of duty or incompetence in the conduct of office. This new section is in keeping with the regulations for filing a complaint against a Town Clerk. Under this provision, each individual becomes accountable for his/her actions.

Sections 2 and 3 relate to the duties and powers of the State Elections Enforcement Committee and appointment to said committee.

Section 5 requires an elector to file a change of address with the Registrar of Voters prior to receiving an absentee ballot from the Town Clerk.

Section 6 ensures that continuing education is a part of the Registrar of Voters and Town Clerks role as it concerns elections. Continuing education means improved support for the electors, the candidates and the public in general.

We urge your support for SB 437.