

Governor's Bill #5024

An Act Concerning Voting Rights

I am here to support the Governor's Bill. This bill goes a long way in giving potential voters the ability to register and vote. However, there are two issues that need to be considered in its implementation.

First is the concept of online registration. I believe allowing people to register to vote through the Dept. of Motor Vehicles is appropriate. Most people get either a driver's license or DMV issued photo identification and the DMV is already promoting voter registration by sending registrations cards out with the renewal forms. The next logical step would be to allow people to register to vote. The verification of the driver's address and the signature against the license would insure the integrity of the process.

The second issue concerns Election Day Registration. We live in a complex world that doesn't always allow for time to do such things as registering to vote, even though we may follow national, state and local issues. Allowing for EDR will provide every eligible voter an opportunity to vote, and that cannot be bad.

There are some issues with the mechanics of the bill as well. I believe the section 2 on page 3 of 15 is too cumbersome in practice. A new voter may expect a wait but to have to sit and wait while the old town is notified and can verify that voter has not voted in the old town will just take too long. I believe the affirmation signed by the voter should be grounds enough to give the voter a ballot. The Registrars of Voters should input the new cards within 2 days of the election and we should be able to verify that the voters taken from our towns did not vote. If they did and I do not believe there will be many of them, the information should be sent to the SEEC. With the official voter check off sheets and the voter's own affirmation, this should not be time consuming for the SEEC.

It has been proposed to develop a separate ballot for EDR but I believe in order to save costs, an absentee ballot can be used .

If the issue of potential voter fraud is too difficult to overcome, I would suggest the use of an absentee ballot that the Registrar of Voters would hold for 5 days in order to mail the voter acceptance letter and verify the residency of the new voter. This will mean election results may be held up for 5 days.

Both Registrars of Voters in South Windsor support EDR and are looking forward to working with the Secretary of the State in implementing a workable plan.

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