



Testimony of  
W. Derek Buckley, Easton Town Clerk  
Submitted to the

Government Administration and Elections Committee  
February 22, 2013

**Proposed H.B. No. 5289 AN ACT CONCERNING THE TIMING OF  
CERTAIN SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS**

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in **support** of HB. 5289, An Act Concerning the Timing of Certain Special Municipal Elections.

Late last year, the Easton Treasurer resigned and an interim Treasurer was appointed by the Board of Selectmen. In response to a petition, it was necessary to schedule a Special Election. The Connecticut statutes determine the range of dates on which the Special Election can be held. There is no discretion in scheduling the Special Election to coincide with the State election. Consequently, Easton had a Special election on October 26, 2012 and a State election on November 6, 2012. Easton incurred both the expense and the difficulty of having to manage the absentee and other ballots for two almost simultaneous elections.

H.B. 5289 would allow municipalities to work with the Office of the Secretary of State to combine "a special municipal election brought upon application of electors with a regular election, if the special municipal election falls within thirty days of the regular election". The passage of this small, but important change to existing election statutes, would allow municipalities to minimize costs, better utilize their limited resources, all while protecting the public's ability to petition as a candidate and preserving their rights to vote.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony and I can be reached at 203-268-6291 if you should have any questions or need additional information.

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