



GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

MARCH 11, 2013 PUBLIC HEARING

Testimony in SUPPORT of Raised Bill HB6428, AA Enabling Towns to Check Voters in Electronically

Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, and Representative Hwong,

My name is Melissa Russell, I am a Registrar of Voters in Bethlehem, and President of ROVAC (Registrar of Voters Association of CT). I am here today to testify on behalf of ROVAC in support of this bill, which would enable towns to use various types of software to check in voters electronically.

During the last election, much was made of the long lines in some municipalities for those waiting to be checked in to vote. Electronic check in would drastically reduce that wait. Rather than have a checker page through a voter list, then use a pen or pencil to manually cross off a name, the use of an electronic check in would enable the checker to simply click a box next to that person's name, or scan a barcode.

There are several electronic software programs that are available, and it's not the intention of ROVAC to recommend any single provider, but to simply enable Registrars to choose software that works best for their town. The choice to use an electronic check in system would be up to the Registrars and their specific needs.

Registrars are eager to take advantage of new technologies that make voting a more pleasant experience for the voter, and that make our reporting duties more accurate and efficient. Being allowed to use an electronic check in system would help to ensure that.

I thank you for your serious consideration of this bill.