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# TOWN OF VERNON

Election Division  
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Senator Musto, Representative Julita & Members of the GAE

RHB 6429 AAC Overvotes For Cross-Endorsed Candidates.

My Name is Judith Beaudreau; I am an Election Administrator / Registrar of Voters for the Town of Vernon, CT. I would like to thank the committee for raising this important bill.

As a registrar of Voters I have found it difficult to have our moderators in their respective polling places to have the burden of trying to figure out the unknown votes for cross endorsed candidates. I teach Moderator Training around the state and this is an area where there is complete confusion. Last time this was before your committee it was passed to have those votes allocated to various endorsing parties. This proved to be time consuming for the polling place moderators and then again for Head Moderators at the end of the night. As Registrars of Voters we want a smooth as possible process for our Moderators who have worked 14 plus hours to get the votes correctly and not have to try and figure a percentage at the end of a sometimes wearisome Election. The Tabulator can be arranged to have these cross-endorsed votes not accepted when a voter places the ballot in the tabulator. It can have the tabulator tender request that the voter redo the ballot. Some people have said that this is disenfranchisement. Right now if the vote is allowed for only 3 people and I vote for 4 then the tabulator rejects the ballot and the tabulator tender asks the voter to get a new ballot advising the voter where the error is. If I have a single opening office and I vote for 2 people then the tabulator does the same. What we are asking is that in a cross-endorsed environment that the Tabulator does the same. When voting in absentia such as absentee voters the law covers the voter who so does mark the ballot with both cross-endorsed candidates. The Moderator must use voter intent.

In the last Governor race it proved not to be such a good idea where those votes were placed. Had the voters had to choose the placement of their vote, things might have turned out differently in the court case which followed that Election.