

Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.



**Spoken
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TESTIMONY

MARCH 18th, 2013

Government Administration and Elections Committee

H.B. 6630 An Act Concerning the Delivery of Absentee Ballots by the Town Clerks

H.B. 6635 An Act Concerning Amended Election Returns

H.B. 6634 An Act Establishing a Pilot Program for Municipal Campaign Finance Filings

Good afternoon Senator Musto, Representative Jutila and the distinguished members of the GAE Committee. My name is Essie Labrot and I am testifying on behalf of the Connecticut Town Clerks Association (CTCA). I am the Vice Chair of CTCA's Legislative Committee, and the Town Clerk of West Hartford.

The Connecticut Town Clerks Association supports House Bill 6630 An Act Concerning the Delivery of Absentee Ballots by Town Clerks, and House Bill 6635, An Act Concerning Amended Election Returns.

House Bill 6630 would allow some flexibility in the delivery of Absentee Ballots. Currently, statutes require that ballots be delivered "not earlier than 10 a.m." and "no later than twelve o'clock noon" on the day of the election or primary and at twelve o'clock noon on the day of a referendum. Since the number of absentee ballots differs depending on the type of election, this bill would allow the clerks in conjunction with the Registrars of Voters to determine the most appropriate time to deliver ballots in order to provide an adequate number of Election workers and enough time to process in the event of larger volume of ballots. It also would allow for later delivery in the event of smaller elections such as Referendums or Primaries. This could result in cost savings and more efficient processing of the ballots.

Regarding House Bill 6635, An Act Concerning Amended Election Returns, town clerks across the State have experienced finding errors on Election Returns which require the filing of Amended returns, sometimes weeks after the Election has taken place. The Clerks are required to certify State elections, and it has been difficult to determine corrections without the Head Moderator and Registrars available to assist in resolving them. This bill would provide increased accuracy in the reporting of Election results to

the Secretary of State.

The Town Clerk's Association is also supporting House Bill 6634 An Act Establishing a Pilot Program for Municipal Campaign Finance Filings since it has the potential to increase efficiency, and provide easier access for the public.

Thank you for raising these bills, and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Respectfully submitted,
Essie S. Labrot, CCTC West Hartford Town Clerk
Vice Chair, CTCA Legislative Committee