



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

CGA Government Administration and Elections Committee

February 22, 2013 Public Hearing

Election Law Bills

Comments provided by: Susan Voris, Election Laws Specialist, League of Women Voters of Connecticut

My name is Susan Voris. I am the Election Laws Specialist for the League of Women Voters of Connecticut, a state-wide organization with over 1600 members. The League is dedicated to improving the electoral process.

Support for SB 144 AA Concerning Voting By Individuals With Disabilities.

The League believes that voting should be accessible to all eligible electors. There are accommodations for individuals with disabilities once they get to a polling place including curbside voting. It is the Moderator's responsibility to ensure that the polling place is running smoothly and efficiently, taking into account the sensibilities of all voters including those requiring special assistance. Therefore, the League suggests the following change: "...to provide individuals with disabilities priority access to move to the front of polling station lines, **when requested**, and require all polling places to display signage indicating this accommodation."

SB 283 AA Concerning On-Line Voting For Military Personnel Stationed Out of State.

The League believes that voting systems should be secure, accurate, recountable, accessible and transparent (SARAT). As a general matter, the League supports the adoption of procedures designed to reduce voter inconvenience and measures to ensure that military and other overseas voters have sufficient time to vote. However, we are also concerned about issues related to privacy, voter fraud, and undue influence as well as the security, accuracy, recountability, accessibility and transparency of the voting system. We believe that those issues must be addressed prior to the adoption of an Internet based voting system.

Unfortunately, today's Internet does not yet provide adequate safeguards for online voting. The 2010 debacle that occurred when Washington, DC tested its online voting project demonstrates that online voting has serious security flaws which can jeopardize the privacy of voters' personal identification information and allow tampering with their votes. (For more information, please go to: <http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/politics/Test-Hackers-Crack-DC-Internet-Voting-System.html>)

In summary, the League believes that the state should not adopt Internet-based voting or allow for electronic transmission of a completed ballot unless the systems are able to meet the SARAT criteria and can reliably address concerns regarding the risks of identity theft, fraud, voter disenfranchisement, and lack of confidentiality.

Opposition to SB 668 AA Concerning The Training of Poll Workers.

The League is opposed to this bill believing instead that consistent training should be given to all poll workers before every election or primary. Elections and primaries are held months apart and training can be forgotten or there may be a need to impart new information to poll workers. It is in the best interest of our electors to ensure that consistent training is given to all poll workers on a timely basis to ensure a smoothly run election or primary. Please oppose SB 668.

Support for HB 6100 AA Concerning The Regional Consolidation of Certain Functions of Election Administration.

The League supports HB 6100. The League believes that an efficient and economical government is promoted by coordination among different agencies and levels of government. Also, this bill would promote consistency in training of poll workers, where possible. Promoting efficiency in government, making better use of resources, providing consistency in training and ultimately ensuring a smooth election process are all goals the League can support. Please support HB 6100.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon these bills.