



Monday, March 11, 2013
Government Administration and Elections Committee

Submitted by Peter Gostin, Registrar of Voters, City of New Britain

Support H.B. 6486 An Act Concerning Changes Of Address For Elections

Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, and Members of the GAE Committee

My name is Peter Gostin, Registrar of Voters from New Britain and Vice-President of ROVAC.

On behalf of ROVAC I am testifying in support of HB 6486 which seeks to amend Sec 9-35(e) of the CT General Statutes by allowing registrars who utilize the U.S Post Office's National Change of Address System during the annual canvass to mail notices to a voter's new address for the purpose of correcting and updating their registry lists.

Currently Sec 9-35(e) is somewhat ambiguous as to where such mailings should be sent. Many registrars take it to mean the notices should be sent to the voter's old address, while some believe it should be sent to the new address. Since the National Change of Address System is recognized by both state and federal laws as an authorized and reliable source of information, and access to it is paid for by the registrars and their municipalities who choose this method of canvass, it makes much sense for them to use the voter's new address for the mailings.

Amending the language in 9-35(e) would clear up the current ambiguity and be a good return on investment for those municipalities who mail to the voter's old address, as they would save money on all the follow-up mailings that inevitably occur due to the many undeliverable notices that get returned from the old address.

I urge the GAE committee to support passage of HB 6486.