

Monday, March 11, 2013  
Government Administration and Elections Committee

Submitted by Karen Cortés, Registrar of Voters, Town of Simsbury

**Support Raised Bill No. 6427 and S.B. 778 An Act Concerning Polling Places for Primaries**

During the 2012 legislative session, the House and Senate unanimously voted to enact An Act Concerning Polling Places for Primaries, which was subsequently vetoed by the Governor. I thank this committee for raising the concept, and Representative John Hampton and Senator Kevin Witkos for introducing the bill.

It is my hope that during this session, substitute language can be crafted that achieves the goal of reducing the fiscal burden faced by municipalities when opening polling places for low-turnout election events, while addressing Governor Malloy's concerns about timeliness of voter and candidate notification and public input.

As municipal budgets continue to be squeezed, Registrars have a real opportunity to reduce expenses through polling place consolidation. Reducing polling places could achieve reduced poll staffing, office staffing, equipment moving, and memory card programming expenses.

In Simsbury, we opened and staffed four polling locations for the 2012 Republican Presidential Preference Primary for 744 voters. One of our polling locations had fewer than 100 voters cast ballots. Had Simsbury had the option to consolidate polling locations, we could have saved taxpayers in our town \$10,000.

I thank you again for taking action on An Act Concerning Polling Places for Primaries.

###