



GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
Public Hearing March 11, 2013

Testimony on Raised Bill No. 6429

An Act Concerning Overvotes for Cross Endorsed Candidates

Senator Musto, Representative Jutila and Members of the GAE Committee

My name is Sue W. Larsen. I am Chairman of the ROVAC Legislative Committee and here to speak in support of HB 6429. ROVAC is in support of HB 6429 because first and foremost Registrars of Voters believe in the integrity of voter intent. Under the current system, the Registrars of voters must allocate unknown votes based on a formula. This is not voter intent.

The integrity of the voter system is at risk when a voter believes they have voted for their candidate twice. In reality, the voter may have filled in the oval for the same candidate twice but the vote is counted only once as an unknown (no party designation). The allocation of the votes does not reflect the true strength of a political party because voter intent is lost.

ROVAC proposes that when an elector votes twice for the same candidate, it be handled as an overvote. This process is similar to voting for more than the allotted votes in a municipal race such as Board of Education. The ballot is rejected and the voter is given a new ballot to fill out. The voter is NEVER disenfranchised. In the case where the voter decides not to fill out a new ballot, the ballot is placed in an auxiliary bin to be hand counted. In that case only, the vote would be counted as unknown in the polling place. The ballot would not be spoiled unless the voter received a new ballot to fill out. Absentee ballots would be treated similarly. The overvote would result in an automatic hand count because the voter did not have the opportunity to correct the ballot.

HB 6429 corrects a flaw in CT's voting system. We urge you to consider this bill.

Thank you for allowing this testimony.

Sue W. Larsen, Registrar of Voters South Windsor
ROVAC Legislative Chair