



March 17, 2014

Senator Musto, Representative Jutila and Members of the GAE

My name is Karen Cheney and I am the Democratic Registrar of Voters in Durham. I am here to speak in favor of SB 441.

I have utilized to pollbooks in Durham with success. We eliminated unofficial checkers therefore cutting down our space requirements in an already crowded polling place. The political parties were pleased with the real time access to current voter information. The poll books will be especially useful in federal elections when we have 3 voting districts in one location. We anticipate the electronic pollbooks will be cheaper for the town, will cut down the time voters wait in line and easier to maintain records.

In addition to my work for Durham, I also serve as the ROVAC County Chair for Middlesex County. I have discussed electronic pollbooks at county meetings and I have demonstrated the technology to the other members. My Registrars are eager to embrace the technology and investigate the cost savings, space savings and time savings.

This bill would allow Registrars to select a vendor certified by the Secretary of the State. As a small town with 5000 voters, I cannot afford the software necessary in larger towns/cities with more complex districts, ballots and polling locations. We need the ability to choose the appropriate vendor to meet our needs. We would like the reassurance that we can invest in the laptops and technology needed to support the electronic pollbooks without fearing that our vendor or investment will be negated later.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Karen Cheney

Registrar of Voters, Durham