



Election Division  
Office of the  
Registrars of Voters  
Election Administrators

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# TOWN OF VERNON

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Senator Musto, Representative Julita & Members of the GA, My name is Judith Beaudreau; I am an Election Administrator / Registrar of Voters for the Town of Vernon, CT. I am a past president of ROVAC and a member of two National organization called the Election Center out of Houston TX, and I am the Education Chair for IACREOT (International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials & Treasurers). I have just recently set up our certification in Public Leadership with George Washington University out Of Washington DC.

I am unable to be at your public hearing on Poll Books because I am in Washington DC working on accessibility voting for voters with disabilities. It is snowing here and expect 8-10 inches today, I plan to return to CT tomorrow evening where I am sure we will be getting some more snow.

Last week I was in San Diego with we discussed Audits & Poll Books in length. I hope that some of this info you find of help on the subject.

I would like to submit testimony regarding the bill on Poll Books. [SB 411 AAC Electronic or Manual check-in of voters, process of voting & electronic filing of Official Lists.](#)

I believe I know a lot about Poll Books. In the 1990's I first used Bar Code scanners to check in voters along with the paper list. This info was transmitted to both political parties during the day eliminating the party checkers.

Than after doing 3 pilot programs with vendors of new Poll Books - I chose a CT company that allowed me to have voters checked off by a lap top. It is a program that works outside of our data base. I clearly want this type of program. I do not want one that touches our data base directly due to the integrity of our list & system. It is also a local Vendor who can be worked with to add to the program & make changes as laws change.

This program allows political party headquarters to log in and see instantly who as checked in to vote and who has still not shown up at the polling place. I also have a percentage widget on my web site that allows everyone to see how many and what percentage has been out to vote at any given time. This keeps the press happy. This helps Political Parties

So they know exactly when a voter checks in to voter alleviating unnecessary phone calls.

The end of night process is much faster. Now Official Checkers do not have to count a book of checked off voters. Time after time, because they make counting errors. They know when the last voter has checked in how many voters have voted that day. Now we are waiting for the Tabulator to run the tape. Which we know that results are much faster on the Tabulator with our new Tabulators and we are always waiting for the Official Checkers to count voters page after page. These Poll Books are instant as soon as last voter checks in we know how many have voted. This defiantly speeds up the closing of our polling places thus giving us quicker numbers faster.

I have worked with the developers & programmers who are working on our state-wide data system ConnVerse to have the info saved constantly to a memory stick and taken from there to ConnVerse data base to mark off who voted.

Before this program (Poll Book) the “who voted program” done by list to computer is a tedious task, it requires several days to get the list into the computer. Done one by one. When doing the one by one – you are moving your eyes from paper to screen and may check the wrong person. Mistakes happen often. I can upload who voted from our memory stick to ConnVerse within 2 minutes with complete accuracy from who was check off as voting.

A large amount of states are using poll books. They find them more accurate than the Official Checkers are. I have found with the system that I bought that I had to have the curser slowed down. I use all 16 & 17 year olds in the polling places and they are very technology inclined.

When I have referendum and the kids are in school – I use older adults and it is just as easy for them to use as the kids. However not all poll books are as easy and Official Checker friendly. The cost factor of these programs are all across the board.

I have heard from our SOTS at last year’s public hearing that it would cost 150 thousand to certify these companies. I really find this a little absurd.

I want you to know that there are **no standards** for poll books. There is **no certification** programs for poll books. The EAC (Election Administration Commission) if they ever get the new commissioners appointed from Congress will address that in the future.

The state of Indiana is in the process of creating a plan to certify the poll book companies. But have not completed it as yet. Connecticut could do a certification plan with a few good people. A group of Election Administrators Officials along with SOTS and some technology people could come up with a list of what a system should do etc. After all it does not touch our data base.

I have also supplied you with the Report & Recommendations of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration. They were appointed last year – traveled the US listening to Election Officials. If you look on page 44 - 45 they have recommended the use of Electronic Poll Books.

There is no reason to have to file the official paper list in the Municipal Clerks office. These records are held for four years than destroyed. As registrars we are mandated to input into the “who voted program” after elections of everyone who voted. It is in our system. We can produce the list for anyone who wants a copy by clicking on a button. Why maintain the paper if we do not have to? We should be headed to a paperless society.

If any of the GA&E Committee would like a demo of a Poll Book I am always available to do a demo. I will be using the Poll Book for my referendum in May. I will send everyone an invitation to come to Vernon to see it working in live time.

Please pass this legislation so that we can move into this century and have our results of elections done in a timely manner.