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Secretary Merrill has proposed reforms to Connecticut's process for elections including the appointment of a single registrar in some towns and the possible regionalization of the duties in other towns.

The proposal is an end run around the voters' rejection of the Constitutional Amendment this past November.

Secretary Merrill placed all her eggs in that basket – i.e., the Centralized Voter Registration System (ConVerse) was not in my and many other registrars' opinions given adequate support and/or updates. Registrars' concerns regarding the system often went unanswered and the issues were frequently not addressed.

Since I became a Registrar in 2008, at every ROVAC convention, which the Secretary of State's office attends twice a year, I have been asking for certification training of registrars. Again we have not had any movement by this Secretary of State or past Secretaries of State towards this goal.

The Secretary of State did get passed legislation which enabled her office a more active hands on role in oversee the Registrar of Voters job and compliance. This past election season the Secretary of State's office held numerous conference calls. During these calls they announced which towns had not complied with the filing of documents with her office or were not partaking in the conference calls. I wonder why, when one of these towns was Hartford, the Secretary or her representative did not exercise her statutory authority prior to the election and send someone to inquire what was going on and ensure that all voters' rights were protected.

There is an old saying "the buck stop here." Obviously Secretary Merrill is trying to duck and cover from numerous problems that her office has failed to address: ConVerse not working or slow, lack of bandwidth, election night reporting which was abandoned, certification of registrars, multiple and contradictory opinions from her staff on the same subject, late or faulty communication with Registrars and Town Clerks, and other problems.

Our system does need modification and updating; but blaming it sole on the Registrars of Voters when only one town had major problems is not the way to ensure the voters rights.

Secretary Merrill keeps talking about how Registrars are partisan in their office. When and where has she or her staff every observed the actual office dynamics. Sure, issues come up, but they are resolved, and the voters can be confident that their rights are protected by registrars throughout the state.

