

Not Testifying

IACREOT

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS, RECORDERS, ELECTION OFFICIALS AND TREASURERS
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"Remembering the Past as We Plan for the Future."

Michael B. Winn, President

March 9, 2015

Dear Chairmen Cassano and Jutila, Ranking Members McLachlan and Smith, and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

My name is Michael B. Winn, and I am the President of the International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers (IACREOT), a professional association with over 1500 active members, representing local, state, provincial, national and international associations and agencies. I am also the Election Director of Travis County, Texas, with a population of 1.1 million residents. I would like to submit this testimony today in opposition to SB 1051, An Act Strengthening Elections.

Following the 2012 election, IACREOT was asked to provide a report to the U.S. Presidential Commission on Election Administration, and I served on the task force to make recommendations for procedures and best practices in state and local election administration. Among IACREOT's recommendations was the following:

- **All measures must maintain the current bi-partisan political control and oversight for confidence and engagement.**

In my state of Texas, each County Election Commission reserves a seat for the county chair of each major political party; each polling place's election judge is matched with an alternate judge of the opposite party. While the structure of election administration varies tremendously in different jurisdictions, political parties remain an important part of our system, and including bi-partisan control in elections contributes to public trust in the election process.

In my 12 years as a member of IACREOT, I have encountered Connecticut Registrars in a number of settings: the late Judi Beaudreau, Registrar of Vernon, not only organized conferences for local Connecticut election officials, but also chaired the Education and Training committee for IACREOT. I have met your officials at conferences around the country, and had the pleasure of offering a keynote speech to a Connecticut election conference in 2014. I have been impressed with the participation, dedication, and enthusiasm demonstrated by your local officials.

I urge the committee to protect the public confidence that bi-partisan oversight of elections brings, and the expertise accumulated by your election community through years of service, education, and mutual support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael B. Winn
IACREOT President