



TOWN OF GREENWICH

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

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REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

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February 12, 2015

Chairman Cassano, Chairman Jutila, and all members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Registrars of Voters of the Town of Greenwich, Sharon Vecchiolla, and Fred DeCaro III.

Together, we wish to urge the passage of SB 601, AN ACT ELIMINATING OVERVOTING FOR A CANDIDATE.

The process of arbitrarily assigning a vote to a particular party based on a mathematical formula delays the reporting of results, falsely assumes the intent of the voter, and often over-allocates votes for a minor party.

For example:

Candidate A receives 10040 votes, which are spread evenly throughout 10 districts.

So town-wide, she gets

10000 votes as Bull Moose Party
20 votes as Whig Party
20 unknown votes

Run this through the widget, and candidate allocation is

10,019 votes as Bull Moose
21 votes as Whig

But if you did the same thing in each district,

1000 votes as Bull Moose
2 votes as Whig
2 Unknown

Candidate would be allocated 1 Bull Moose, and 1 Whig per district, making the totals

10,010 as Bull Moose

30 votes as Whig

The larger the city (in terms of polling precincts), the more the results are skewed in favor of a minor party. This is because the current mathematical formula always provides at least 1 unknown vote to the minor party, no matter what the proportion of known votes is between major and minor party.

Ideally, to provide uniformity in the way a vote is cast at the polls, via Election Day Registration, and by Absentee Ballot, registrars should be allowed to report vote totals which included the UNKOWN party designation, which is how the tabulators are already programmed to record the votes. Should the legislature wish to reject said ballots in order to offer in-person voters the opportunity to recast and clearly mark their choices, this is a reasonable accommodation. To be voter friendly, however, if the voter does not wish to re-vote, the ballots can still be counted via the override process at the end of the night and the results tallied with UNK party designation

Thank you.

Fred DeCaro III
Republican Registrar of Voters

Sharon Vecchiolla
Democratic Registrar of Voters