

Walter, Judith

From: Raymond <redori@charter.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 08, 2015 2:59 PM
To: GAETestimony
Subject: Dotti Dori Tom Dunkerton Registrars of Voters Brookfield,CT RE HB1051

To: Senator Caddano, Representative Julia, and members of the GAE

From: Dotti Dori
Tom Dunkerton
Registrars of Voters Brookfield

RE H.B. No. 1051

Thank you for the opportunity to write to you concerning recent legislation regarding elections in the state of Connecticut. We all agree that elections are an essential part of the electoral process and should be run fairly and efficiently. How this is done should be open to discussion. We have some questions we would like you to consider.

We would respectfully like to disagree with the title of this bill, AN ACT STRENGTHENING CONNECTICUT'S ELECTIONS. We feel that this bill would weaken rather than strengthen the election process in our state.

At the present time we, the Registrars of Voters, are elected officials. While we are paid by our individual towns and cities, our ultimate responsibility is to the Secretary of the State.

The Registrars are now part of a bi-partisan cost-effective team that is unusual in the political system. Our main duty is to ensure fair and accurate elections. We each are members of a political party but work together to fulfill that duty. Our town committees appreciate that we are the resources in the electoral process that are local and helpful. They appreciate having two "sets of eyes" on everything. How would the committees feel about working with someone other than their own party, especially at Primary time?

As elected officials we have the ability to set our office hours in a way that not only serves the voters of our municipality but also allows us to manage our work schedules to fit the Election Calendar. (How would an employee of the town be compensated for a 24 hour day?)

Those of us in small towns work without workplace benefits.

Connecticut has had a tradition of separation of the offices of Town Clerk and Registrars of Voters, especially in regard to Absentee Ballots. What is the advantage of changing this relationship and making the registrar an employee in the clerk's office?

How much "authority" would the Town Clerk have over the registrar?

If one registrar per town is appointed, would there be a guarantee of continuity in a change of local administration

How would the appointed deputy share the responsibility and workload of the job?

Again we respectfully request you to consider these points and encourage you to keep the office of Registrar of Voters as it is - A bi-partisan partnership elected to run fair and accurate elections.