

City Of Torrington



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Written Testimony of:
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Before the Government Administration & Elections Committee
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Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila and members of the Government Administration & Elections Committee, thank you for this opportunity to address you regarding SB1051 "An Act Strengthening Connecticut's Elections"

I feel strongly that the proposal included in this bill to reform the Registrars system by creating a system of a single appointed registrar is misguided and would be harmful to the City of Torrington and municipalities across the state.

By having two registrars, one from each party, we can be assured that all elections activities are receiving review from two individuals. This, contrasted to the proposed plan which would have one individual be in charge of all testing, tabulators, and absentee ballots. It is vitally important that in the matter of elections, both political parties be fully involved. Speaking from experience, the City of Torrington has had many years of successful elections wherein our registrars and their respective staff work well together and ensure that the election is run smoothly and efficiently.

The thought of a single registrar being appointed by one person is also greatly concerning. In towns where the political party in power shifts from year to year, it would seem probable that the appointed registrar would be a new person from each administration to the next. This would then remove any semblance of continuity in the registrar's office.

With respect to some towns and cities wherein one political party is historically in power for many years, it would seem likely that the minority party would not be afforded any opportunity to be represented in the Registrars position. It is unfathomable that we can allow for a political party to have no representation whatsoever in this vitally important office of municipal government.

I appreciate your taking the time to hear the concerns of myself and others and I am hopeful you will agree with the concerns that are shared by so many across the state. I appreciate all that you do for and wish you the best of luck in the rest of the legislative session.

Sincerely,

Elinor Carbone
Mayor