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Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2015 11:57 AM
To: GAETestimony
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Subject: SB1051-An Act Strengthening Connecticut's Elections

Written testimony for public hearing scheduled for March 9, 2015.
Submitted by Louise Graver and Gloria Nemczuk, Registrars of Voters, Guilford, CT

Against SB1051

Removing the two registrar elected system from the state statutes and replacing it with a one registrar system is unwise for the following

reasons:

Oversight of elections administration by two sets of eyes is a necessity for insuring elections that are fair, honest and absent of fraud

or even the appearance of fraud;

The appointment by a town's legislative body greatly politicizes the position of registrar, by making that registrar beholden to the appointer;

In towns where the legislative body changes every two years, the position of registrar could change frequently depending upon the

outcome of the bi-annual election, thus promoting (to the detriment of consistency and efficiency) a frequent re-education of the

Registrar's' position;

In towns where the legislative body is entrenched, a minority party would have no voice whatsoever in town government;

Providing for increased accountability (which seems to be the prime motivation behind this bill) through modification to state statutes

9-3 and 9-4 would be a more effective way to accomplish increased oversight. (We would be in favor of this approach).

For SB 1051

We are in favor of the following provisions in SB 1051:

Eliminating the mandatory Saturday registration session (10am to 2pm) in October;

Posting ID requirements at each polling place;

Reporting election results in two phases to enhance timeliness of winner determination and to facilitate accuracy in the breakdown of

the total numbers by district and party which is required by the state legislature;

Developing a registrar certification program.

Thank you for your consideration.



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