



## CITY OF DANBURY

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TESTIMONY of Mark D. Boughton, Mayor – City of Danbury CT

Raised Bill No. 1051 – An Act Strengthening Connecticut's Elections  
Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Submitted 3/5/15

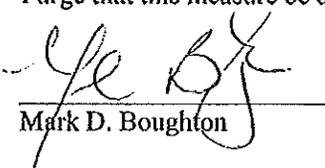
Gentlemen and Ladies:

As the Chief Elected Official of one of this State's largest cities in this, our Constitution State, I ask that the consideration of this measure to alter the selection procedure and designation of municipal registrars from two (2) elected officials (one from each party) to a single appointed individual that would be under the jurisdiction of the municipal town clerk be rejected.

Registrars perform vital functions going to the very heart of voter representation. What better way to reflect that representation than to elect these individuals and to elect one from each of the two parties to fully represent both philosophies and needs of the bipartisan constituent voter? The accountability that would be lost were this legislation to be authorized would inevitably be eviscerated, with any remaining "accountability" turned into favoritism and politicization. The further fact and reality is that the practical administration of registrar services would itself be diluted and defeated given the loss of experience that joint tried and tested registrar officials have maintained and maintained successfully over the many years.

The measure would then further dilute the registrar effectiveness by establishing *appointment and operational* jurisdiction over a single appointed registrar by the municipal clerk (who is an elected official). Doing so would beg the very wisdom and sensibility of proposing such an alternative method. No, it is not appropriate to come heavy handed upon the localities of this State, removing and destroying what has been a very effective and representative way of translating the wishes and needs of the local electorate and leave behind little more than a poorly thought out weakening of the long standing and direct accountability that voters have come to expect in their desire to be ensured of fair and bipartisan election processes in the Constitution State we call home.

I urge that this measure be defeated.

  
Mark D. Boughton

"registrar testimony"