



DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRARS OF VOTERS
THE CITY OF WATERBURY
CONNECTICUT

Testimony in Opposition of Raised Bill No 1051 AAC STRENGTHENING CONNECTICUT'S ELECTIONS

Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila and Members of the GAE Committee, my name is Timothy De Carlo, and I am the Registrar of Voters from the City of Waterbury, the Chair of the New Haven County ROVAC Association as well as a member of ROVAC Legislative Committee. I am here today to testify in opposition of SB 1051.

SB 1051 removes the current elected registrar system and replaces it with an appointed patronage election office that would be housed under the Town Clerk's office. As of right now a registrar of voters receives an endorsement from their local party and then runs for election. Any major party candidate for the office of Registrar of Voters can receive a primary. Over the last several election cycles Connecticut has seen primaries for the office of Registrar of Voters take place in towns and cities such as Bristol, Wilton, Danbury, Norwalk, and Stamford,

Elections in Connecticut continue to evolve. As Secretary Merrill stated in the New London Day in an op-ed on March 8, 2015, "local registrars are on the whole a diligent and hard working group who care a great deal about voters and democracy." The Registrar Association couldn't agree more; therefore we would welcome a one-on-one certification program for Registrars. It is only through continued education that those who administer elections can strengthen elections in Connecticut. Registrars throughout Connecticut feel that elections could only be strengthened through a one-on-one certification program. ROVAC eagerly awaits a certified training program from the Secretaries office.

For several years reporting of elections in Connecticut has been behind the times, lacking any form of technology. ROVAC therefore would greatly applaud an electronic End of Night Reporting system for election night. At this point and time we lack the capability of reporting election night return in an electronic format and are left to send results back to Hartford via fax machine. ROVAC feels that an electronic format of reporting elections results would greatly help move Connecticut's reporting capabilities into the 21st century.

ROVAC agrees that more can be done to strengthen Connecticut's elections and we stand committed to work with members of the GAE Committee as well as the Secretary of the State's office to provide Connecticut with the most up to date methods of reporting elections.