

The Middlefield Democratic Town Committee is opposed to SB 1051, which the Secretary of the State has put forward. Section 1 of this bill would replace the election of at least two registrars of opposing parties with the appointment of one registrar by "the legislative body of each municipality in consultation and coordination with the municipal clerk." The municipal clerk would also appoint a deputy registrar and one or more assistant registrars. Section 1 would effectively compromise the integrity of elections and sever the safeguards now afforded candidates during an election. Middlefield Town Committee members overwhelmingly support the status quo—elected Registrars of Voters from opposing parties endorsed by members of their party.

The concern of the members of the Town Committee is that both major parties as well as minor parties need to be represented during many aspects of preparing for and administering elections, such as testing memory cards, conducting supervised absentee ballot voting, setting up tabulators, and counting absentee ballots in addition to conducting fair and impartial elections.

Further, Many municipal clerks are elected. A single registrar appointed by elected officials and under the supervision of an elected official may very well feel pressure to defer to the party in power and/or the municipal clerk's party.

Again, members of the Middlefield Democratic Town Committee overwhelmingly oppose SB 1051.

Thank you for your consideration of our opposition to this bill.

Allison Dodge, Chair
Middlefield Democratic Town Committee