



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

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CGA Government Administration and Elections Committee

March 16, 2015 Public Hearing

Comments on:

SB 1083 AAC Ways to Regionalize, Professionalize and Enhance the Efficiency of Election Administration

Comments submitted by Yvonne Senturia, Election Laws Specialist

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The League of Women Voters of Connecticut is a nonpartisan, statewide organization committed to the active involvement of citizens in their government and improving the electoral process. The League believes that the political process must be open to all citizens and that the right to vote with confidence in the election process must be guaranteed. Reviewing Connecticut's election laws must be a continuing activity, in light of the evolving technology in voting systems, new legislation and regulations, and the needs of the public.

In order to develop consensus on how to adapt the current problem-plagued registrar system, the League supports the concept proposed in SB1083 to establish a task force to study election administration in the state, including methods to regionalize, professionalize and enhance the efficiency of election administration, and to recommend any legislation necessary to implement such methods by a January 1, 2016 deadline. We would request that the task force be structured to include appropriate representation from the voting public who are *not* elected officials, as well as members of the academic community who would contribute best practice research. With such representation, there can be greater confidence that the task force will truly focus on the needs of the public to vote with confidence in the election process.

The direction to the task force also should include a charge to specifically address the need for accountability in election administration—standards of operation that are enforceable throughout the state— as was discussed extensively in the March 9, 2015 Public Hearing on SB 1051.

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut appreciates the opportunity to comment on this bill.