



GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
Public Hearing February 29, 2016

Testimony in support of HB 5386
An Act Concerning Votes for Cross Endorsed Candidates

Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila and Members of the GAE Committee,

My name is Timothy Beeble. I am Registrar of Voters in the Town of Bethel, and a member of the ROVAC Legislative Committee. I hereby submit this testimony in support of HB 5386.

Minor Parties are active in the Town of Bethel, and many candidates for municipal office are cross endorsed by a major party and a minor party. In the municipal elections of 2015, there were 30 seats up for election and 57 candidates ran for these elected positions. Thirty-one of these candidates were cross endorsed. Consequently, Bethel has considerable experience in ballots cast for cross endorsed candidates.

According to CGS Section 9-242, ballot tabulators do not reject as an over-vote, a ballot cast by a voter who selected their cross endorsed candidate choice by filling in the ballot bubbles for that candidate on both the major party line and the minor party line. While the vote is counted for that candidate, it is identified separately from the tally of major party votes and minor party votes as being "Unknown." This can be confusing to both the public and the media, who are not sure what is unknown. In reality, the Registrars and Moderators do know that such voters cast ballots for the candidate on two party lines. In all likelihood, the voters cast their ballots in this way on purpose.

I agree with ROVAC in my support of HB 5386 which would change the terminology of Unknown Votes to Unassigned Votes. **This terminology is more descriptive of the fact that the votes were cast and counted without being assigned to either endorsing party.**

I urge you to consider this bill.

Thank you for allowing this testimony.

Timothy Beeble, Bethel Registrar of Voters