



**GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING FEBRUARY 29, 2016**

Testimony in support of SB 250- An Act Concerning Hours of Election Day Registration

Good morning Senator Cassano and Representative Jutila, members of the GAE Committee.

My name is Bill Giesing, I am a Registrar of Voters from New London with 10.5 years of experience and a member of the Legislative Committee for the Registrar of Voters Association of Connecticut.

I am here to support SB 250 An Act Concerning Hours of Election Day Registration.

The confusion involving the times a person can register and vote on Election Day and a person who is already registered can vote is a problem. A person already registered to vote who is at the polling place in line at 8 PM will be allowed to vote after 8 PM if they were in line before the 8 PM deadline. A poll worker would be at the end of that line and anyone else trying to join the line to vote would not be allowed to do so.

A person who has not registered to vote on Election Day is required to come to the Registrar's office to fill out the registration form and show identification in order to be entered into the system and become a voter. The new voter will be given a same day registration ballot and allowed to vote. This takes time. If at 8 PM a person is in the office and has not been entered into the system by then, they would not be allowed to vote as they would not be a registered voter. Also anyone else still in line at that time would not be allowed either.

By changing the time for a person to register by 7 PM it would allow those in line at that time that haven't voted, a chance to finish their registration and vote by 8 PM. If there were a large enough line at 7 PM this would allow a person to finish the registration process and submit their ballot after 8 PM if necessary. Registrars of Voters do not want disenfranchisement of potential voters.

The other issue in the process is calling other Registrars to verify that a person that came from another town has not already voted in that town. By closing the Election Day Registration process at 8 PM, and with the anticipated longer lines in a presidential election and state elections, some of the smaller towns have finished their election processes and are closed,

thereby not allowing the bigger community the ability to do the verification. By the process closing at 7 PM this would alleviate some of that problem.

If the Presidential Ballots of previous elections are any indication of voter turnout for EDR, I would request that you approve this change to the legislation to improve the opportunity for many potential voters. I thank you for your time on this matter.