



***GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION &
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE***
February 29, 2016

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 96% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

SB 253 "An Act Concerning Polling Places for Primaries"

CCM **supports** SB 253.

The bill would allow municipalities, under certain circumstances, to designate polling places other than those used during a general election - allowing local registrars of voters to achieve a level of savings by consolidating polling places, when appropriate. It is estimated that a savings in excess of \$10,000 could be achieved for a small town.

CCM urges consideration for the following thresholds and parameters to be included in the proposal, in order to ensure any such changes in polling places do not hamper the voting process:

1. Apply to municipalities with populations of 40,000 or less with historic voter turnout for the same office on the ballot of 40% or less.
2. Require the designation of new polling place(s) no later than 120 days prior to Primary Day.
3. Require notice to be provided to the candidates, Secretary of the State, applicable municipal town clerk, and electors within certain timeframes.
4. Require signs to be posted at polling places to provide guidance to electors as to proper location to cast their vote.

CCM urges the committee to *incorporate the items outlined above* and *favorably report* SB 253.



If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Advocacy Manager of CCM at mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org or (203) 500-7556.