



## GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

### **Testimony in Opposition of Raised Bills No HB 5818 AA Extending the Hours of Election Day Registration and HB 6045 ACC Election Day and Primary Day Registration.**

Senators Flexer and Sampson, Representative Fox and Members of the GAE Committee, my name is Timothy De Carlo, and I am a Registrar of Voters from the City of Waterbury, the Chair of the New Haven County ROVAC Association and the Chairman of ROVAC Legislative Committee. I am here today to testify in opposition of HB 5818 and HB 6045.

These purposed bills would both make modifications to the current time of operation for Election Day Registration throughout the state. Currently Election Day Registration in Connecticut takes place between the hours of 6:00 AM and ends at 8:00 PM. No new registrations are processed after 8:00 PM

Currently under 9-311 and 9-440, The Head moderator shall file a preliminary list of the vote totals produced by the tabulator not later than midnight on Election Day. Thereafter, the head moderator shall file a complete Head Moderator's Return with the Secretary of the State by electronic means not later than forty-eight hours after the close of the polls. The head moderator shall also seal and deliver an original Head Moderator's Return to the Secretary of the State not later than the third day after the primary. This is due to the fact that in a Statewide Election, the Secretary of the State, or in a Municipal Election, the Town Clerk, will need to compile all election results to make sure that a recount is not needed.

If new electors are continuing to be created after the election has concluded, this will ultimately delay the time in which results can be reported to the Secretary of the State. Election Day Registration Ballots are not placed into a tabulator until after they have been sent to central counting or processing at the polling place. They must be opened, sorted and then fed into a tabulator. Once this process has completed, the moderator can then close out the election on the tabulator. Because the current End of Night Reporting System requires towns to only send completed results of the entire town, it is very possible that large cities like Bridgeport, Stamford, Hartford, and college towns like Mansfield and Middletown may be delayed in reporting final results to the Secretary of the State's Office until well past 12:00 AM following the election.

Due to the fact that the results may not be reported until well into the next day following an election, it is possible that recounts will not be discovered and declared until the Monday after the election. This would be in violation of current state law under 9-311.

Therefore if either bill is to be sent out of committee, ROVAC asks that the statutes that require the time in which to submit results, declare a recount and call for the certification of an election to be adjusted in order to accommodate the change for Election Day Registration to continue after 8:00 PM

Connecticut does not run elections with high-end technologically advanced voting systems, which we learned after the 2016 Presidential Election that may not be a bad thing. Our voting tabulators run on late 20<sup>th</sup> Century technology which makes them extremely difficult to hack into and cause harm. Which ensures the public accurate results.

However there is a downside to using older technology to run elections. In the City of Waterbury, where I am a Registrar, it takes over 3,000 manual entries in order finish the election tallies and report all results to the Secretary of the State's office. When we see high turnout as we did in 2016, 2018 and most likely will see again in 2020, reporting accurate results takes time, to submit under the current system that the State of Connecticut provides to Registrars.

The likelihood of not knowing who has won an election in a state-wide race in Connecticut until well into the Wednesday or possibly Thursday could become a reality if Election Day Registration is to continue past 8:00 PM. This could also impact when results are known in large cities such as Stamford and New Haven as well as in college towns like Mansfield. This is mainly due to the fact that the technology that is used does not allow for fast pace resulting.

ROVAC does support HB 6059, which makes changes to Election Day Registration. This bill follows what has been done in the City of Waterbury since Election Day Registration began in 2013. Waterbury has never turned a voter away at 8:00 PM. ROVAC would greatly appreciate to testify on behalf of this bill should it come up for a public hearing.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify before you this afternoon. ROVAC is committed to working to strengthen elections in Connecticut. Therefore we are more than willing to work with any parties to create JFS language should the committee wish to do so on this pending legislation.