

**TESTIMONY OF PATRICIA KANE, ESQ. before the
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE HEARING
ROOM 2B, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
HARTFORD, CT.
FEBRUARY 27, 2019**

Chairs and Members of the Committee:

My name is Patricia Kane. I am a retired attorney residing in New Haven, CT, where I am the Chair of the New Haven Green Party. I am appearing in support of H.B. 5820, *An Act Establishing a Task Force to Study Ranked Choice Voting*

For almost as long as I can recall, there have been complaints of voter apathy and statistics showing higher voting levels in many other countries. It's clearly time to hit the re-set button in our elections and a good place to start is with updating the process to determine a winner.

RCV is a process that allows people to express their choices in order of preference. It is particularly useful where there are more than 2 candidates. Sometimes a popular 2nd or even 3rd choice is more acceptable to the voters than is someone who wins with a low plurality.

Many of us have only known one system of voting all our lives, so change may be hard. It was the same way in the legal system in 1982 when I secured an Ethics Committee Opinion permitting parties to a divorce to use one attorney in a private process, instead of being limited to the adversarial system. It was very controversial at the time, but now it is an accepted alternative to dispute resolution in which even retired judges participate.

RCV will also become a popular choice, once used, and will be seen as fairer to the candidates and producing much more satisfactory outcomes to the voters.

In New Haven we will be using RCV to select both the lighting design and the color for the Dragon Bridge, aka the Grand Avenue Bridge, that spans the Quinnipiac River and connects Fair Haven and Fair Haven Heights. Residents will get ballots at 2 local businesses, one on each side of the river, and use preferential voting to determine the appearance of the renovated, historical bridge.

Using RCV is our way of saying that we believe there can never be too much democracy.

I strongly support H.B. 5820 and urge you to favorably vote the bill out of the GAE Committee.

Patricia Kane

New Haven, CT