

GAE Committee Members:

In this digital age our state and federal government should do what it can to protect its citizens and not use them for profit.

Currently the state of Connecticut is in the business of buying and selling data they collect from voter records and this has inadvertently put CT citizens in harms away. Even more unbelievable is that the current data collection and trading of data is not even disclosed when CT citizens register to vote. To me this is worse than what other for profit, social media companies have been called out for in Congress and in the media.

Does any committee member believe the current status quo is good for CT citizens? Are any of you proud of this current practice and be willing to go on TV to defend it? Is it acceptable that our personal data be made available on the public internet so that bad actors could potentially bully, discriminate or even do harm based on information made available by the state? If someone was harmed from the availability of this information could the state be held liable?

The current effort to make this outrageous status quo well know will depress voter registration so the time is now to act. Both democrats and republicans want all its citizens to register to vote and without the worry that their political affiliation, address and birthday might be tracked by fulfilling their civic duty. In an era of intense political debate our state representatives could pass this bill in a non partisan fashion showing that its government is working together to protect its citizens in the digital age upon which we all live.

I sincerely hope that you will consider this timely bill that will make the great state of CT even better.

Sincerely,
Edward Long