

P. O. Box 512
Montpelier, Vermont 05601
February 27, 2015

House Committee on Government Operations
State House

Subject: Draft election law bill (draft 2.1, 2/5/2015)

Dear Chair Sweaney and other committee members:

I have the following comments on this draft of the elections bill.

The headlong rush of taking from voters the control of their own elections is continued in Sec. 27 of the bill, local elections, conduct of recount. If the voters of a community do not choose to use vote tabulators for a recount, they should not be required by their board of civil authority to use tabulators for recounts. I think there is no need to alter this section of statute. However, the offensive part is in lines 18 - 21 on page 25, which allows a board of civil authority to act on its own. I request that those lines be deleted from the bill. (§ 2685, (a)(2)(B))

I remember some of the controversy when the campaign finance bill was passed last session. Part of the controversy was that the contribution levels were set too high, and then an inflation index was added on top of that. So I suggest that the inflation index be as low as possible. This could be done by making the adjustment based on the lowest of several applicable inflation indices. If that approach is deemed too risky, then I suggest that you investigate several inflation indices and put into the statute the one that over the longer term has been one of the lowest rates of inflation.

Thank you for reading and considering these comments.

Sincerely,
Thomas Weiss