

S. 29 comments

For the record, I am Anne Mook, former member of this esteem committee and current BCA member. Feeling very strongly about getting folks to vote, during the past 10 years while in the House, I chaired a Task Force on Civics! -With the hope that required civics curriculum be restored to middle and high school-no luck. Today I am Here to testify on S.29.and give you my thoughts and questions to consider when you are making decision on whether to move this bill forward. When you are taking testimony, make sure you include not only Town Clerks, but BCA members that work the polls.

1. Border towns: with the exception of the newest member on this committee, I am from Bennington...a long drive from here, but district Benn 2-1 rep by Corcoran and Fields amazingly abuts the NY border. Benn 2-2 my former district is 10 miles to the MA border. Why I share this is we have many constituents who live in Vermont and work in either ny or ma. and visa versa. Our hospital is the largest employer...drive through the employee parking lot-the majority are NY license plates. How easy would voting in 2 places be.

S. 29 and the unintended consequences of this bill are huge for border towns. ..Without a unified or interstate checklist system, how can a BCA worker know Where someone actually lives when they register on the spot? .. I could have my family from Albany vote there and then drive to Benn, register and vote in Benn. In several races in this House have been as close as 1 to 7 votes-one race decided by this committee. Just a few voters from over the border could impact those results.. In our area we also have a transient population that moves between NY, MA and VT to manipulate benefits using post office addresses. Do their benefit cards have a photo ID? No, They may have a non driver ID but that is it. And some post offices often use the pink slip of registering to vote for a proof of residency in order to obtain a p.o. box and yet they may live in NY.

2. I have been Working polls since President Clinton's first election to present. I often have Worked the problem table. An individual comes to check in and is not on district check list. Is referred to the problem table. Conversation goes something like this.....

Have you ever registered to vote. Yes, I registered to vote but it was a long time ago. When did you last vote. Can't remember.

Have you moved, changed your name? Do you have a license on you? Don't drive? Another form of an ID on you?

Did you Respond to the request to have name removed from checklist?

We happen to have hard copies of checklists way back....find the individual.'s name on a 1990 list so she had registered. and her current address is documented from a current driver's license.

But, if he/she does not have a driver's license, what ID do they have? How about a voter's card.

3. IDs: First, Glad that the senate delayed the implementation of this proposed legislation until after pres election, but PLEASE see an ID piece inserted.

Banks require 2 forms of ID to open account, why not for the most important privilege of all-voting-. Keeping the integrity of the election is just as important. Some individuals do not have 2 forms of ID, like...non drivers, low income, what about a woman who moves in with a man where all accounts are in his name, an individual moving in with a friend, or an individual in a safe house. I do not think our intent of increasing voting participation is to shut out others.

How do election workers verify college students? College officials should be part of the planning or included in your testimony on what ID would be available and accepted. Students who live in on campus have no utility bill, light or cable bill just a college ID.

4. DMV...motor voter has not been a proven success. There are still many months in delay. Efforts on fixing that process should be a priority.

While I am talking DMV, like banks, DMV require 2 IDS FOR RENEWING LICENSE. Last fall I could not get my license renewed as I do not rent, DMV would not accept a checking account, I have no cable, utility, fuel bill, internet in my name all in my husband's---it does now saying Wes and Anne Mook-- but this affects seniors who are recently widowed whose husbands paid the bills, have no outstanding mortgage, and the woman's name is not on the mortgage. My Bank ended up notarizing a document that DMV accepted re length of accounts and paid off mortgage. There are many little items that have the possibility of unintended consequences. Rather than encouraging voters, you will be sending them away if details are not worked out ahead of time. I still think a PICTURE Voter's card is the way to go and DMV can be and is equipped to do same day licenses/ voter cards.

There is enough information during October and early Nov re voting for individuals to get registered. I prefer this committee leave in place the Wednesday before election as the deadline for registration. I suggest for college students who wake up on Voting day and decide to vote, they go to DMV and have them process and clarify identification before they come to voting polls-rather than have poll workers do that at the polls. At some point, the potential voter must take responsibility for the registration.

Last comments... Of the states that do same day registration, 10 of 11 require an ID. I have those states requiring ID if you need them.

For those who are not JPs or never worked an election, hold on S. 29 and spend time during the next November election watching the existing process. Thank you.