

February 12, 2018

Testimony

Karen Richard, Chair of the Legislative Committee for VMCTA

Thanks for asking us to comment on the proposed legislation.

H. 624 – Elections; statewide voter checklist; federal registry or database; personally identifying information

This bill proposes to add a registered voter's phone number to the list of confidential information that is exempt and kept confidential from public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act and to propose that a person's information maintained in the statewide voter checklist cannot be disclosed to the federal government.

The VMCTA would like to have the same consideration from providing information that is afforded to the Secretary of State office. This appears to be addressed on Page 2, line 11 – 16:

(2) A public agency as defined in 1 V.S.A. Sec 317shall not knowing disclose any information... to any federal agency or commission or to a person acting on behalf of such a federal entity

Page 3 - (c) (1) Any person wishing to obtain a copy of all the ~~the~~ statewide voter checklist

“or of a municipality's portion of the statewide voter checklist” must file an affidavit....

The Clerks do not want to file an affidavit each time a copy of the checklist is requested. Please remove this section. It would be cumbersome to file an affidavit with the SOS office each time a copy of the checklist is requested. We finally have a system where we can provide an electronic copy to a political party or a candidate with ease, and with an email request. To add a signed affidavit to this process would slow down the response time for the requestor.