

P. O. Box 512
Montpelier, Vermont 05601
March 1, 2019

Senate Committee on Government Operations
State House
Montpelier

Re: S.107 - elections corrections

Dear Committee Member:

The bill as written deprives some people of their legitimate vote and has the ability to alter the outcome of an election. Please change the bill to eliminate the possibility of those adverse outcomes.

I am referring to page 54 of the bill as introduced, lines 4 through 10. The objectionable provision is the counting of a write-in vote as a blank unless the name written in belongs to a candidate who has registered in advance as a write-in candidate.

I suggest a write-in vote for a non-registered write-in candidate be counted as a "non-candidate write-in" or something equivalent (rather than as a blank for that office as proposed in the bill). These votes would then be included in the total of votes cast.

There is an adverse effect in counting such ballots as blank. The adverse effect is reducing the total number of votes cast for an office. Reducing the total number of votes cast can change two outcomes.

- It reduces the ability to request a recount.
- It reduces the number of votes needed to obtain a majority in those offices where a majority is required for election to the office.

Please count the write-ins for real people as votes. Please do not allow any of them to be counted as blanks.

Sincerely,
Thomas Weiss