

Hey Ruth,

I'm running a special election today and unable to testify this afternoon. I've done a really quick review of the new draft and don't see anything the association would object to. The items that are most important to us are:

1. Language releasing clerks from responsibility associated with collecting candidate demographics. Clerks don't need to be the demographics police.
2. Having write-in candidates file consent forms (primary and state elections – not local elections). We hope someday to incorporate similar language for local elections, but this is a great first step.
3. Changing the thresholds for write-in candidates to be elected. Clerks don't have an opinion on this, but it will impact our work, so it's good to be aware of the proposed changes.
4. Receiving electronic ballots from overseas voters. A good first step. Hoping this gets to expanded to include all military personnel in the future, including those stationed in the US.
5. I see the RCV language has been incorporated into H.429. It looks like it's there in its entirety. While I'm not personally a supporter of RCV, the association has taken the position that we support implementation for the 2028 presidential primary, as long as there's time to put procedures and training in place for election workers, and there's a strong voter education component. This seems to be covered in the draft language.

I'm sorry I can't be there this afternoon... Thanks for reaching out.

Carolyn S. Dawes CVC CVT
Barre City Clerk/Treasurer