

**Vermont Municipal Clerks & Treasurers Association (VMCTA)
Legislative Committee**

Carol Dawes, committee chair

Barre City treasurer
(802) 477-1459
treasurer@barrecity.org

Bobbi Brimblecomb

Marshfield clerk/treasurer
(802) 426-3305
clerk@town.marshfield.us

Bob Champagne-Willis

Maidstone treasurer
((802) 676-3210
maidstonetreasurer2@gmail.com

Teegan Dykeman-Brown

Calais clerk
(802) 456-8720
townclerk@calaisvermont.gov

Hilary Francis

Brattleboro clerk
(802) 251-8157
hfrancis@brattleboro.org

Susan Gage

Brandon clerk/treasurer
(802) 247-3635
clerktreas@brandonvermont.gov

Marlene Hall

Shaftsbury clerk
(802) 442-4038
townclerk@shaftsburyvt.gov

Stacy Jewell

St. Johnsbury clerk/treasurer
(802) 748-4331
townclerk@stjvt.com

John Odum

Montpelier clerk
(802) 262-6263
jodum@montpelier-vt.org

Diana Vachon, VMCTA president

Shelburne clerk
(802) 985-5116
dvachon@shelburnevt.org

Thank you for inviting the VT Municipal Clerks' and Treasurers' Association to testify with regards to S.298, the Vermont Voting Rights Act.

Vermont's clerks are the chief election officials for local, state and national elections, and take their duties to uphold election laws and voter access very seriously. Clerks register voters and maintain voter checklists, collect public questions and nominating petitions for local elections, arrange for printing ballots and testing tabulators, hold early absentee voting in their offices, and conduct elections on election days. They uphold the fairness and integrity of elections for the benefit of all registered voters.

To that end, VMCTA strongly supports S.298 – the Vermont Voting Rights Act.

Clerks are nothing if not detail oriented. To that end, when we read the draft bill, we are struck by the language in sec. 2802 (a) that reads in part... “no voting qualification..., standard, practice or procedure shall be imposed...by...any municipality in a manner that results in a denial... of the right of any citizen to vote based on... membership in a language minority group”.

Clerks ask the following questions with regards to implementation of this specific language:

1. Will voter applications, warnings, materials, absentee ballot envelopes, and ballots need to be available in different languages?
2. Will interpreting services be needed in clerk’s offices and at the polls?
3. How will the covered languages be determined, and by whom?
4. Will there be funding available to help with the costs of services and materials?
5. Will there be training available to help clerks become compliant?

All these things are possible, but require planning, training, and funding. We encourage the committee to consider these fundamental next steps in bringing the Vermont Voting Rights Act to life.

Thank you for your time. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or for further discussion.