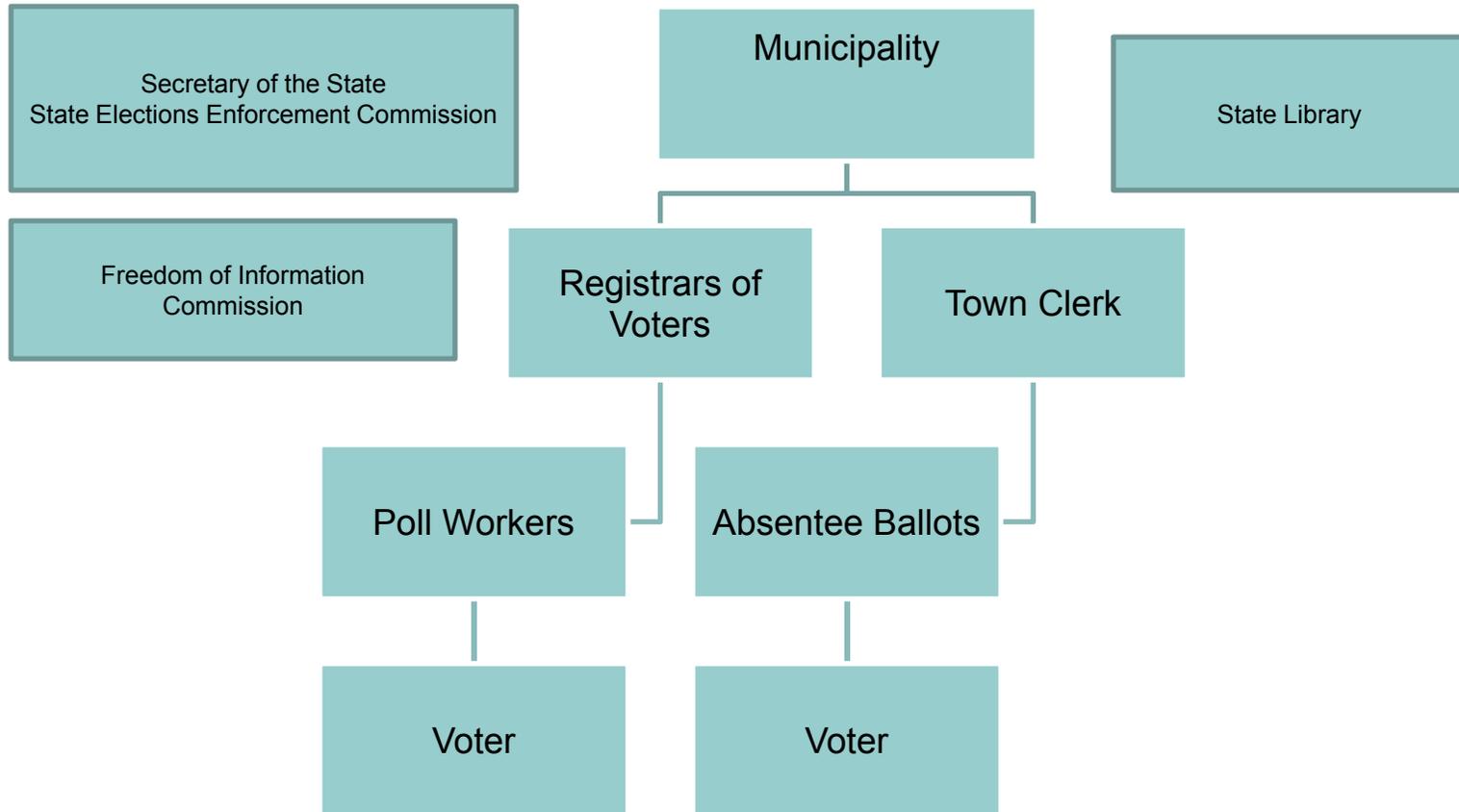


# STATE OF CONNECTICUT'S CURRENT SYSTEM OF ELECTIONS

# Current System Design in General

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# Registrars of Voters

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- Connecticut state law mandates that each city and town in the state elect one Republican and one Democratic Registrar of Voters. A third party registrar may be elected in addition to the required Republican and Democrat if they receive more votes than either the Republican or Democratic nominee.
- The Office of Registrars of Voters was created for the first time in 1860 in the Towns of Hartford, New Haven and Middletown.
- Among other duties, the Registrars of Voters are responsible for creating and maintaining the official registry list for the municipality, maintaining and preparing the voting machines, hiring and appointing poll workers, training poll workers, ensuring proper set-up of the polling place, ensuring proper reporting of candidate totals on election night, and conducting post election recounts and audits.
- Although elected to represent different parties, the Registrars of Voters are jointly responsible for the conduct of elections and are expected to work together in a non-partisan manner.
- 81 Registrars of voters have 4 year terms and 88 have 2 year terms.

# Town Clerks

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- The Municipal Clerk is the oldest of public servants in local government, along with the tax collector.
- The office of town clerk of Wethersfield, Connecticut, was established in 1639 and that person was to "keep a record of every man's house and land," and to present "a fairly written" copy of such to every General Court to be recorded by the secretary of the colony.
- Each of Connecticut's 169 Municipalities has a Municipal Clerk
- 44 Municipal Clerks are Appointed Officials and 125 are Elected Officials
- Of the 125 Elected Officials 74 have 4 year terms and 51 have 2 year terms
- The major Municipal Clerk duties associated with elections are Absentee Balloting, Candidate Nominations, Candidate and Election Official Vacancies; Public Notice, Nominating Petition processing, and permanently documenting election results.
- Additional major Municipal Clerk duties include land record recordings, map filings, maintaining birth, marriage and death records, acting as clerk for the governing body, maintain board and commission filings and tracking related appointments and resignations, issue various licenses, permits and registrations, i.e., marriage, dog, liquor, notary, trade name, foreclosed/vacant property and maintain for public inspection state studies and publications, contracts and annual town, financial and budget reports.

# Training and Certification

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- **Sec. 7-22a. Certification program for town clerks.** (a) There shall be a committee for the purpose of establishing a program and procedures for the training, examination and certification of town clerks and assistant town clerks. The committee shall consist of six members, one of whom shall be from the office of the Secretary of the State, one of whom shall be from the Department of Public Health, one of whom shall be from the Office of Public Records Administration, and three of whom shall be town clerks.  
  
(b) Any person may participate in the course of training prescribed by the committee and, upon completing such training and upon successfully completing any examination or examinations prescribed by said committee, shall be recommended to the Secretary of the State as a candidate for certification as a certified Connecticut town clerk. The Secretary of the State shall certify any qualified candidate recommended by the committee as a certified Connecticut town clerk and may rescind such certificate upon a finding, by a majority of the committee, of sufficient cause as defined in rules and regulations adopted by the committee.
- **Sec. 9-192a. Committee to establish programs and procedures for training, examining and certifying registrars, deputies and assistants. Training program for poll workers.** (a) There is created a committee for the purpose of establishing programs and procedures for training, examining and certifying registrars of voters, deputy registrars of voters and permanent assistants, as described in section 9-192. The committee shall consist of six members, one of whom shall be from the office of the Secretary of the State, one of whom shall be from the State Elections Enforcement Commission, and four of whom shall be registrars of voters.  
  
(b) The committee shall adopt criteria for the training, examination and certification requirements of registrars, deputies and permanent assistants. Any registrar of voters, deputy or permanent assistant may participate in the course of training prescribed by the committee and, upon completing such training and successfully completing any examination or examinations prescribed by the committee, shall be recommended by the committee to the Secretary of the State as a candidate for certification as a certified Connecticut registrar of voters. The Secretary of the State shall certify any such qualified, recommended candidate as a certified Connecticut registrar of voters. The Secretary of the State may rescind any such certificate only upon a finding, by a majority of the committee, of sufficient cause as defined by the criteria adopted pursuant to this subsection. No provision of this subsection shall require any registrar of voters, deputy or permanent assistant to be a certified registrar of voters.

# Poll Workers

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- The registrars are required to appoint the following officials for each polling place:
- 1 Moderator
- At least one but not more than two Checkers for each line of electors
- 2 Assistant Registrars
- At least one but not more than two Tabulator Tenders for each tabulator in use
- At least one but not more than two Ballot Clerks
- Additionally, a 16- or 17-year-old U.S. citizen resident of a town may be appointed as (1) a challenger or unofficial checker or (2) a checker, translator or tabulator tender after attending poll worker training and receiving written permission of a parent, guardian or the principal of the school.

# State Elections Enforcement Commission

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- In the wake of the Watergate scandal, the Connecticut General Assembly created a five member bi-partisan and independent State Elections Commission (Public Act 74-213) to ensure the integrity of the state's electoral process. The Commission was given the authority to investigate possible violations of the election laws, inspect campaign finance records and reports, refer evidence of violations to the Chief State's Attorney or to the Attorney General, issue advisory opinions and make recommendations to the General Assembly concerning revisions to the state's election laws.
- The Commission has full subpoena power, can impound voting machines and absentee ballots, require a forfeiture of contributions or payments and impose civil penalties against violators.
- In 2005, public act 05-5 established the Citizens' Election Program, giving the commission the authority to administer the public campaign finance program. The CEP provides public campaign grants to qualified candidates for Statewide offices and the General Assembly, who adhere to expenditure limits and other program requirements.
- The Commission is also charged with administering campaign finance reporting.

# Freedom of Information Commission

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- The Freedom of Information Commission's mission is to administer and enforce the provisions of the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act, and to thereby ensure citizen access to the records and meetings of public agencies in the State of Connecticut.
- The FOI Commission hears complaints from persons who have been denied access to the records or meetings of public agencies in Connecticut. Any person denied the right to inspect, or to get a copy of a public record, or denied access to a meeting of a public agency, may file a complaint against the public agency within 30 days of the denial. The FOI Commission will conduct a hearing on the complaint, which hearing is attended by the complainant and the public agency. A decision is then rendered by the FOI Commission finding the public agency either in violation of the FOI Act or dismissing the complaint if the public agency is found not to have violated the FOI Act. If the public agency has violated the FOI Act, the FOI Commission can order the disclosure of public records, null and void a decision reached during a public meeting, or impose other appropriate relief.

# State Library

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- The Office of the Public Records Administrator is responsible for the design and implementation of a records management program for all state agencies within the executive department as well as for certain quasi-public agencies, and the towns, cities, boroughs, districts, and other political subdivisions of the state.
- This includes: (1) overseeing the life cycle of public records including creation, use, maintenance and disposition; (2) publishing records retention schedules; (3) keeping state and local government agencies informed about current records management issues; (4) developing standards for records creation in paper and electronic formats; (5) overseeing the disposition of all public records; (6) identifying and preserving records essential for the continuity of government operations during or immediately following a disaster or emergency situation; (7) publishing regulations regarding the construction of town record storage vaults; the creation of permanent land maps filed with town clerks; and real property electronic recording; (8) conducting the annual examination of land record indexes; (9) administering a grant program to municipalities to enhance or improve the preservation and management of local historic documents.

# Secretary of the State

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- The Secretary of the State is designated by the Constitution and General Statutes of Connecticut as the official keeper of a wide array of public records and documents.
- Connecticut law makes the Secretary of the State responsible for the administration of many aspects of business law including the approval of all certificates of incorporation, organization and dissolution, as well as annual and biennial reports. Trademarks are registered here as well.
- As Commissioner of Elections for the State of Connecticut, the Secretary is charged to administer, interpret and implement election laws and ensure fair and impartial elections. Under the terms of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, the Secretary has the same responsibility for federal elections.
- **Legislation and Elections Administration Division (LEAD)** administers, interprets and implements all state and federal laws pertaining to elections, primaries, nominating procedures, and the acquisition and exercise of voting rights. The Division encourages and monitors the implementation of the National Voter Registration Act and other voter registration efforts in Connecticut. In conjunction with local Town Clerks and Registrars of Voters, the division provides training for local elected officials. The division, working with local officials, has put into operation a statewide-computerized voter registry system, which complies with the Help America Vote Act.
- In addition the division is the official keeper of all acts, orders, grants and resolutions of the General Assembly, receives and maintains legislation, regulations and a wide range of other public documents as required by statute, and administers Connecticut's notary public program.

# Applicable Federal Laws

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- The **Voting Rights Act of 1965** is a landmark piece of national legislation in the United States that outlawed discriminatory voting practices. In addition, it requires States to offer election materials in languages other than English.
- The **National Voter Registration Act of 1993** (NVRA), requires state governments to allow for registration when a qualifying voter applies for or renews their driver's license or applies for social services.
- The **Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)** requires that all states allow certain U.S. citizens (overseas and military) to register to vote and to vote by absentee ballot in federal elections.
- The **Help America Vote Act** requires all states to: (1) replace punchcard and lever-based voting systems; (2) create a centralized voter registration system; and (3) to establish other minimum election administration standards.

# Transition from Lever Machines

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- Important considerations:
  - Voter verified paper trail (ability to re-create the election)
  - Paper ballot (if the machine fails we can continue voting)
  - Ease of use
  - Public perception
  - Full face ballot

# Transition from Lever Machines

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# Transition from Lever Machines

State of Connecticut  
Official Ballot



Milford, Connecticut

Municipal Election

Date of Election  
November 3, 2009

Voting District 3  
Sheet 1 of 1

Be sure to read the instructions on the reverse side of this ballot.

| OFFICE<br>PARTY              | 1<br>Mayor                                              | 2 3 4<br>Aldermen<br>Vote for Any Three        |                                                   |                                                  | 5<br>Town Clerk                                         | 6 7 8 9<br>Constables<br>Vote for Any Four            |                                                 |                                                   |                                                        | 10 11<br>Board of Education<br>Vote for Any Two |                                                     | 12<br>Planning and<br>Zoning<br>Commission           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| REPUBLICAN                   | <input type="radio"/> 1A<br>James L.<br>Richetelli, Jr. | <input type="radio"/> 2A<br>Lee S.<br>Cooke    | <input type="radio"/> 3A<br>Paula L.<br>Smith     | <input type="radio"/> 4A<br>Frank J.<br>Goodrich | <input type="radio"/> 5A<br>Linda<br>Stock              | <input type="radio"/> 6A<br>George A.<br>Marshall     | <input type="radio"/> 7A<br>Robert H.<br>Miller | <input type="radio"/> 8A<br>Shirley A.<br>Serrano | <input type="radio"/> 9A<br>Vincent F.<br>Rostani, Sr. | <input type="radio"/> 10A<br>Robert M.<br>White | <input type="radio"/> 11A<br>Jack<br>O'Connell, Sr. | <input type="radio"/> 12A<br>Edward D.<br>Mead       |
| DEMOCRATIC                   | <input type="radio"/> 1B<br>Genevieve P.<br>Salvatore   | <input type="radio"/> 2B<br>Suzanne<br>Manning | <input type="radio"/> 3B<br>Martin B.<br>Hardiman | <input type="radio"/> 4B                         | <input type="radio"/> 5B<br>Richard F.<br>Roy           | <input type="radio"/> 6B<br>James M.<br>Santa Barbara | <input type="radio"/> 7B<br>Scott B.<br>Barnett | <input type="radio"/> 8B<br>Linda J.<br>Hardiman  | <input type="radio"/> 9B<br>Dennis L.<br>Slavin        | <input type="radio"/> 10B<br>Jim<br>Quish       | <input type="radio"/> 11B<br>Jeffrey L.<br>Forte    | <input type="radio"/> 12B<br>George R.<br>Gaspar III |
| MILFORD INDEPENDENT<br>PARTY | <input type="radio"/> 1C<br>Peter L.<br>Spalthoff       | <input type="radio"/> 2C                       | <input type="radio"/> 3C                          | <input type="radio"/> 4C                         | <input type="radio"/> 5C<br>Michael<br>David<br>Konopka | <input type="radio"/> 6C                              | <input type="radio"/> 7C                        | <input type="radio"/> 8C                          | <input type="radio"/> 9C                               | <input type="radio"/> 10C                       | <input type="radio"/> 11C                           | <input type="radio"/> 12C                            |
| PETITIONING<br>CANDIDATE     | <input type="radio"/> 1D<br>Timothy P.<br>Chaucer       | <input type="radio"/> 2D                       | <input type="radio"/> 3D                          | <input type="radio"/> 4D                         | <input type="radio"/> 5D                                | <input type="radio"/> 6D                              | <input type="radio"/> 7D                        | <input type="radio"/> 8D                          | <input type="radio"/> 9D                               | <input type="radio"/> 10D                       | <input type="radio"/> 11D                           | <input type="radio"/> 12D                            |
| WRITE-IN VOTES               | <input type="radio"/> 1E                                | <input type="radio"/> 2E                       | <input type="radio"/> 3E                          | <input type="radio"/> 4E                         | <input type="radio"/> 5E                                | <input type="radio"/> 6E                              | <input type="radio"/> 7E                        | <input type="radio"/> 8E                          | <input type="radio"/> 9E                               | <input type="radio"/> 10E                       | <input type="radio"/> 11E                           | <input type="radio"/> 12E                            |