

Hartford County Meeting - September 29, 2015
Guest Speakers – Peggy Reeves & Ted Bromley

Peter Gostin called the meeting to order, Chairperson Darlene Burrell was delayed by traffic. Our guest speaker, Ryan from LHS cancelled.

Treasurer's Report by Sue Burnham – In Jan and March meetings \$6 per town will be collected for the Spring conference raffle basket. South Windsor has been creating our county baskets but, if anyone else is interested in doing it, please let Sue know.

Convention Committee Report by Ann Clark. Spring conference went well. Location was new, a little smaller than in the past, but it worked out. Dates for upcoming Spring conference are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - April 13, 14, and 15 in Cromwell. Please email your suggestions on what you would like to see at the conference.

Questions/Requests to go to committee:

Q. Shortening the Spring Conference to two days?

Q. Do conference class time count towards maintaining certification:

Q. Why would there be any doubt that conference class hours would count towards the eighteen required annually?

A. This is what I heard, so this should be a Ted question, to get this clarified. It is also unclear if the eight is in addition to the ten hours, or if it is inclusive.

(Note: As the 28 hours of the certification classes count, this will not be an issue for the first two years.)

Q. Why can't we do as Town Clerks and do our business meeting during lunch instead of inviting speakers for our lunches? This would save a lot of time.

Handbook - Darlene will be sending an update to the handbook presentation, to correct the information on CVR letters. The timing of sending CVR letters is not limited to just Canvass. You can send it if the acceptance letter is returned by the Post Office but there are some restrictions, which Darlene will need to get confirmed before she sends that out.

Credentials Committee by Anita Mips. No report, no meetings yet.

Education Committee by Kevin McCauley and Camille. Committee is sending back and forth ideas - a lot of good discussion. Please get back to Sharon Krawiecki if you have any ideas that you would like to see covered at the convention.

Audit Committee by Lisbeth Becker. No report, no meetings, no chair yet.

Legislative Committee by Sue Larson. The survey that was distributed at the conference does not have any major new legislative issues, but it covers what might come up in the short session. This is not when we propose new bills. There are a lot of yes and no questions, also asking for your thoughts on statutes that might need to be modified, fill it out as best you can.

You can mail it to 350 Deming St in South Windsor 06074, or you can scan it and email it in. If anyone has not done it yet, please do.

Q. Did the legislature eliminate any of our mandatory sessions? The Saturday session is unnecessary, especially with online registration being available.

A. No, and that is one of the questions on the survey - should we keep that as a priority that we should be trying to get. Currently, we have been getting a mixed response to this, some say it is a waste of time, but others use that time to get other election preparation done and because it is mandated, they get paid for their work.

Q. How will proceed for the next session?

A. We will come up with a list of what we think are important issues and go over it with the GAE committee chairs, and they will draft the bills.

Q. Can you tell us what legislative changes are effective right now? In particular, the Municipal election results reporting is unclear.

A. This is a confusing part of the bills that passed, some of the changes only apply to State Elections and other parts apply to both. In 1051, the two phase reporting is only for State Elections. So for Municipal election reporting you will have to do it the same as you always do, but the difference is that you will have 48 hours - because that is the deadline for all Elections to get the report to your Town Clerk. So for all Elections you no longer have a fourteen day period to finish your reports, 48 hours applies to all Elections.

Q. So for Municipal Elections we do not just send the machine tally immediately after the election and then finish the reports within 48 hours?

A. No, the way they wrote the bill that is only for state elections, so you do not send the machine tallies during Municipal Elections, just State. The system for doing the dual report hasn't been figured out yet, but the hope is that it will be up and running for the Presidential next year.

Q. So when does the report have to be in, is at the end of business on Thursday?

A. Yes, 48 hours.

Q. What do you expect to get accomplished in this short session?

A. We will be trying to get some small things done based on the survey results. For example we asked if you would like all Elections to be treated the same way, instead of having a different process for State and Municipal. That would mean two phase reporting, having provisional ballots available and using the asterisk next to new voters for all Elections, not just Federal. The push will be to have all Elections treated the same.

Q. At the conference, I think that Ted said that for a Municipal Election SOTS doesn't need to get anything on Election Night, because you have 48 hours, could we get that checked today?

A. Yes, that sounds correct, you need to get it in within 48 hours but that is confusing and depends on how you read it. It is unclear if they need to receive the tape tally results for Municipal Elections, it sounded like they only want them for State Elections. We definitely need to get this clarified.

Q. If HAVA only applies to Federal, why are we talking about State versus Municipal?

A. For State Elections, there is always a Federal component. However, we are talking about State law, and interpretation, so the SOTS and the legislature always use the term State to describe even year Elections.

We have an empty slot for the Legislative committee, because Sue Larson was re-appointed as the Chair. It should go to a small or medium sized town. We will be meeting monthly starting on November 17th, and we will immediately start preparing our legislative agenda. Lisbeth Becker volunteered. Motion was made by Darlene Burrell to accept Lisbeth Becker as our second Legislative Committee representative. Seconded by Peter Gostin. Motion was unanimously approved.

Q. What is happening with the certification of Poll books? UConn has not approved any that we know of, and we can't get an answer. We would like to buy electronic poll books, but we are waiting for their certification so we don't have to also do the hard copy.

A. We have asked and we can ask Ted and Peggy again. We were told that at this time, no poll books have been certified, but they are close. So legally you still need to use a paper checklist as well, if you wish to use them before certification. No one will be required to use them after certification, it will be optional. Once it is certified if you use the electronic pollbooks, you will still need to make a paper hard copy for backup, but you won't have to use it unless the system fails.

Q. How long have they been working on Certification of the Electronic Pollbooks?

A. About six to eight months, they had anticipated being done by this September. SOTS is looking for bonding to actually provide the hardware - the computers, as well as the software. Right now, those who are using the electronic pollbook software are using the required computers for other things. They do not want the hardware used for any other purpose - which may make it too expensive for some. Their first survey of vendors to get bids got only one response, so they were going to redo it.

Voter Checklist is a vendor who did a great demonstration for Bristol, but based on the specs required, they still do not qualify for certification. Perhaps there could be amendments made to the specifications required to at least allow this vendor. They have proven they can work successfully in many towns already. SOTS expects to have at least one certified vendor by December. The bonding commission is meeting today, so getting additional funds for SOTS is on the docket. SOTS is hoping to have as much as 17 million, between leftover funds and this bonding to do a great many things.

One problem with having a hardware system devoted to being used just once or twice a year, is that the battery backup system is difficult to maintain. It would be the same problem that we had with the UPS battery backup towers. All of the towns who have used electronic poll books thus far were pleased with them, however using laptops that are rented, borrowed or used for any other purpose do not meet the SOTS specifications as they are written now. So this is the frustrating part.

Most computers have just a five-year lifespan, so requiring dedicated equipment is very expensive. Prices for computers have been as low as \$500 for the computer and an extended warranty of five years. Fred DeCarlo went outside of his IT department to find inexpensive laptops that can be devoted to Elections. A group purchase of equipment with warranty would be ideal to save some money, once we have a certified vendor.

Wifi accessibility is a huge issue, If electronic poll books are required to be hardwired, it is difficult to implement, not all polling sites are public property. UConn is opposed to using wifi. Steve Mason suggested having CVRS accessible on the web/cloud, to facilitate using the pollbooks. But UConn opposes any use of the web. Voter Checklist is a server based product and currently relies on an internet connection. This is a huge debate on how much security is needed. If we don't allow a web based system, then the other advantage, eliminating the need for unofficial checkers by giving access to who voted will be lost. The issue for UConn is that any network can be hacked. This is why it is so hard to find a vendor.

Elect Tech is another vendor that we piloted. But they have a system that is networked by wifi, so that voters could go to any line - we didn't need separate lines for certain streets. This makes voting much more efficient and allowed for having fewer lines. So if we can't use wifi, we will lose that advantage. Currently because there are no mandates because there are no certified vendors.

Nominating Committee Report by Bob Sherman. No news. We will be meeting in November or December to get started. Our first mandated meeting is in the first quarter of next year. We will be sending out information about what offices are open and requesting resumes from all who are interested. Please consider attending the meetings, so that you can see what is going on to see if you might be interested in taking one of the open positions.

Technology Committee Report by Ann Kilby. LHS does not have any extra battery memory cards, the corporation that they use is not making them. Last week we were told they are sold out. We need to find out what is happening with the battery free memory cards. The technology committee met on September 15, we have a lot of new members. We came up with a list of suggestions for the coming year. These included having the Technology Committee included in any testing of the End of Night Reporting options and be included. Currently the SOTS is consulting with some towns. Improvements in the CVRS training, with a focus on EDR procedures for new system users. Permitting Registrars to have access to Town Clerk tools in CVRS - such as the look up tools and absentee ballot information tools. Discussion of Electronic Pollbook policy.

Q. Why is the red A on the Official Lists which shows someone has cast an absentee ballot now printing on the far left of the sequence number? It should be near the name.

A. We will forward this to Ted. Ted has a secondary IT group that works on CVRS issues. So the current placement was seen as an improvement by that committee. They have met with CVRS programmer to get that change. This change was done to correct the problem of having the A appear too close to the name.

Q. When this change was proposed, why wasn't it tested for some user feedback before implementation?

A. This is a Ted question. We would also like to see the notification of changes in CVRS updated, the latest changes noted are from 2014. When a requested change in the voter registration cards was implemented to get the acceptance boxes on the back, some registrars complained they needed a blank back of the card to enter notes. We need to have a consensus before making requests.

There was some discussion about the different options to place the red A. No consensus. Because the A needs to be checked at the polling site, it is important to make them red even if printing the list in black and white. The cross offs for absentees can be highlighted, so they are standing out. Registrars need to check all of the As.

Data standards were discussed. Norwalk has developed some standards, specifying how to enter things. Beyond getting rid of commas, how to enter apartment numbers, unit numbers.

Rick Beckius, who worked with Judi Beaudreau, put together a working group to improve CVRS. He initially set up CVRS 25 years ago, and he is looking to improve it. How or why SOTS is working with this group instead of the Technology committee is unknown. Ted knows about this working group and allows us to use the computers in Hartford to work on this. Matt Waggner who chairs the Technology committee is a part of this working group. We have met 3 times. The choices of what to work on come from reports - they are trying to utilize things better. One option under consideration is to have CVRS send alerts, rather than making phone calls, when voters move to another town and used EDR.

First time voters who have an asterisk, if they move to another town, do not currently keep the asterisk. This a glitch that they are working on.

Ann will send a list of enhancements that are expected in CVRS.

Q. How do you get the list of absentee ballots received off of CVRS before the election?

A. We will ask to verify how - the Election Detail Report should have this information.

Q. How do you find the list of who are the pending non-DMV online voters?

- A. You go into the Reports menu. There is an option for printing Online Voter Registration lists. You will need to choose pending, non-DMV and enter the time period. This will create a list that you can then use to send letters and registration cards.

Be careful with mailing right before Elections, be aware of the cutoff dates. We no longer have a 14 day - everything is 7 day: online, postmarked and dropped off. You could add a note reminding them they are eligible for EDR if they miss the deadline. It is always nice to go above and beyond to help voters, but it is not mandated.

Matt Waggner has available a program for creating a test deck for certifying your machines and memory cards. It shortens the whole process for developing a test deck. He is happy to send it out. There is a \$100 charge through ROAST if you would like him to create the test deck for you. If the ballots do not align you can adjust the printing the margins. He sent out samples of the first version, but the second version is much easier to use.

Ways and Means Committee Report by Sue Burnham. Our new chair is Lou DeCilio, out of Stratford. Sue did the baskets for the conference - terrific job. We exceeded our conference goal, we made almost \$850 with the basket raffle. We are still meeting in New Britain and enjoy a nice lunch at Great Taste.

Q. Any news on a new logo for ROVAC or the online store?

- A. The board has not approved a new logo. We would like to change the current logo but it has been used for many years and thus far no designs were seen as an improvement thus far. We are trying to come up with something that looks nice. Online is being held up until the new logo is approved. We won't have to stock any inventory items are created as they are ordered. We want to lose the "DMV" style logo.

Money for the basket is collected in January for the Spring raffle, still \$6 per town.

Handbook Committee Report by Darlene Burrell. No recent changes or updates. We will be working on the adding the legislative changes after the Election. I will email it out once it is done. The hope is that the ROVAC website will be up and running and will keep a current, updated copy of the handbook, as well as current information from the counties.

The next ROVAC board meeting will be held on October 8th at the UConn campus, to discuss the certification classes. There are some issues, some comments on Facebook, that have caused some hurt feelings with UConn. The negative notes make us look unprofessional. Please bring your issues to Ted, Peggy, or the chair Ann Marie. Or you can send comments to Darlene, and she will redirect them for you. Let's handle the complaints within our group.

Q. I have seen some of the complaints and would like to know why a core group wasn't created to test the classes before opening them to everyone? The major argument was a question of relevance, especially in the first class where the Justice department and Judiciary roles are the

focus. The first class rushed through the information. The first class did not receive the information ahead of time. The professor reads the power point.

- A. Carol needs more specific information, questions and issues, to share with the committee.

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County meeting was adjourned for our Guest SOTS Speakers Ted Bromley and Peggy Reeves.

Q. We have been discussing pollbook certification and would like to know where we stand, especially regarding the current ones in use in Connecticut? They do not seem likely to be certified. Is use of wifi to keep candidates updated on who has voted no longer an option?

- A. First we would like you to know that Dr. Schwartzman is working with vendors to let them know what fatal errors he finds and works with them to correct and improve their submissions. We are hoping to have something certified for November, if it can be done. There are two active vendors who are working with Dr. Schwartzman, and two others who have made submissions. Peggy called every vendor in the country who currently sells E pollbooks to be sure they were aware of us.

Q. Are we able to assist candidates with updates using the current specifications? We originally were able to give a password to party chairs and candidates with who voted. If we don't use the internet won't we still need unofficial checkers?

- A. We are looking at options like using a USB port. But there are security factors that UConn is studying regarding external access to voter information. Plain wifi availability does not meet the security standards that were built into our specifications. There maybe a compromise that would allow an upload of information, we will work on that. An online streaming pollbook is not an option.

Q. How does the law that doesn't allow us to assist candidates play into an upload option?

- A. Uploading is not a security risk. UConn is really worried about giving someone access where they could add or take away names on the who voted list. These are the same security risks that other states have addressed. We borrowed some of our standards and specifications from other states including Indiana. It really is a security issue. To the extent that something could be done to get the information, it can be done. We just don't want to allow access that would allow someone to start checking off those who didn't vote or unchecking those who have voted. There would be very serious ramifications if someone could tamper with the list.

Q. Is the committee meeting this morning about the bonding to fund the pollbooks?

- A. Yes, they are or are about to meet. It is a very long agenda, so we don't know yet if all of our things will get addressed. The agenda includes DAS and their huge move of all of the state office buildings. The Secretary of State's offices will be moving into the DAS building on Capitol Avenue. It is a huge plan, with millions of dollars proposed to move all of the DAS out, renovating their building and moving all of the Constitutional officers into it.

- Q. What is the timeframe for making a decision for certifying the pollbooks?
- A. We want to have them for 2016 and we really wanted to have some for this November (2015) election, but we have a had a couple of problems, first of which was that no vendor submitted a proposal. Now we have a few, but the other reason is the funding. We can't just make a request, we need specifics. Purchasing, RFPs will take some time. And then implementation needs to be in place. 2016 is still the optimal goal.
- Q. So are we talking about the Presidential Election in 2016?
- A. No, we hope to get it done for the primary. We would not launch this for the first time in a Presidential Election.
- Q. So for the agenda that the committee is doing today, will they follow the published order?
- A. Yes, we think they will follow the published agenda.
- Q. So since we are 10th on the agenda, we could have some news by midday?
- A. Yes, we could.
- Q. Does the bonding proposal include purchasing or supplementing the purchase of new memory cards and poll books?
- A. Yes, we have four items on the agenda. We have new poll books, the new batteryless memory cards, the GEMS program for Election Night Reporting, and the new audit equipment. GEMS is the computer program that is actually used to program your memory cards. It is part of our proposal for towns with more than two districts would get a limited package so that you could get the memory card information and directly send it to add multiple polling location results. So it will eliminate hand counting of the sub-totals of each district. So you would take your tabulator to a central location, remove the memory card and put it into the GEMS system. It will add all of the memory cards together and print out the overall totals. This is what Cambridge and Boston, Massachusetts. We are still working on the procedures, but are aim is to secure the funding now.
- Q. Why can't we buy the memory cards from LHS anymore?
- A. There is only one manufacturer of the memory cards, Dominion. They are not willing to do a run of small amounts of memory cards, they want a bulk purchase. Dominion is willing to make the cards for us with this bonding package, because it will be a large purchase. You could do an internet search for a small number of cards if you need them right away.
- Q. We have in our budget the purchase of 44 memory cards as a Capitol expense. We have held off on placing the order with LHS to see if the bonding is approved, because we can't get reimbursed for the cards. So now what can we do, because Dominion will not make 44 cards for us?
- A. Once we secure the funding for the memory cards, we can add to our order any additional memory cards requested by towns. We would just add to the amounts

requested for LHS for any additional cards with our purchase. If we get the money, that portion of the bonding should be pretty quick.

Q. So these cards would be available immediately, because there is a very short window to test the cards before primaries and elections?

A. Plan to use the battery memory cards for this November. We hope to get the new cards for the next event. We don't know what the turnaround time to manufacture them will be, but certainly sometime in 2016, you can plan on new cards.

Q. When we are testing the memory cards, weeks before the election, many had to be returned because they were unformatted. Will we have these new cards in time to send them back after testing them?

A. Sometimes you get the message unformatted because you are working on a rug which creates static. You could get a static bracelet from Staples, which Ryan from LHS, showed us to reduce the static electricity while your testing. They only cost \$10. It works like a ground wire.

Q. Will the yes/no cards replacement be included in the bonding?

A. I think the SOS will purchase an amount of new cards equivalent to what we have now. Whether you need to purchase new cards we don't know.

Q. We had a question on the End of Night Reporting. What is the correct interpretation of the new law changes? For this November Municipal, are we not going to send you the tape results correct?

A. The legislation has two different ways to submit the results, depending on what type of election it is. So in a Municipal, which this is year, you need to send us a completed Head Moderator return not later than 48 hours after the close of polls.

Q. So there are no other requirements? Registrars and Head Moderator have 48 hours to complete the return?

A. That doesn't mean you can't turn the results in on Election night. If you can finish on Election night, you can submit it then. The idea is not to rush the return so that you need to do amendments. If you can get it all done, if you are a small town, there is no reason to wait to send it in.

Q. Can we still go to the State Trooper's barracks with our return?

A. No, the State Police are written out of both statutes and no longer available.

Q. So we have to fax them and then mail the return?

A. Yes, you can do them.

Q. Can we email the return?

A. Yes, that is fine. The fax number that we give to you actually changes the return into a PDF file that gets emailed to us.

Q. Who do we email returns to?

A. You can email it to any one of us (at SOTS), but please, do us a favor, do not email it to everybody. When you send it twice then we have to spend half the night trying to figure out if this a new or amended return. So I have to determine which to keep and which to throw out.

Q. Can you send the Head Moderator's in a Word document?

A. Yes, but it will be in a doc.x file.

Q. What is the one email address we should be using?

A. You can use anyones, Taffy, Peggy or Ted - just don't do both.

Q. We know that when we email and then also fax just to be sure you received it, that is a problem - but if we only send it once, how can we be sure you received it?

A. If you send an email and doesn't bounce back as undeliverable, then you know we got it. You can send it with a "read receipt" on it, if you want to be certain, that's fine. There is only one fax number, and it is never busy, because it isn't really a fax, it is a converter to email,

Q. I printed the Official Check List for a Primary recently and it was great to have a red "A" but why is the "A" so far from the name?

A. It was near the name and then the group that I met with requested it where it is, all the way to the left.

Q. Why, where did this decision come from?

A. It has been moved a couple of different times after a hearty discussion, this is where it ended up. We can move it back, but some were complaining that the "A" got lost next to the name.

Q. Who said that?

A. Some Registrars requested it. We could move it one more time, if there is a consensus.

Q. We are manually putting another "A" so that we are sure our pollworkers can't miss it. So what is this group that asked for the far left?

A. The group is from your Technology Committee. It is a subgroup. Ted asked Matt Waggner, who is the Head of ROVAC's Technology Committee to put together the group. So please get the consensus to this group, because we don't want to keep moving the "A" around. So if Ann can send Hartford County's preference to the committee, that would be helpful.

Q. Is the "A" in bold now? When you print it in black and white, it looks grey now.

A. Yes, I think we made it a bold red "A".

Q. So the Registrars still need to go through the list because there still are a few glitches, even if the Town Clerk is marking the list with As. Can we use something bright like a pink highlighter to make the A stand out?

A. Yes, you can use a highlighter. And let us know if all of the As aren't printing, don't just assume we know about a glitch.

Q. Regarding the moving the A, I don't believe this is a major fix. Once we come to a consensus, isn't this a quick fix?

A. Yes, it is a simple fix, that is why I am being matter of fact, just let me know where you want it.

Q. The original objection was that the A was too close to the name, but you have other options?

A. Yes, as long as you don't request outside the margins or where there isn't room.

Q. When it is too close to the address, it might get confused as part of the address, like an apartment number. Could we have it read Abs?

A. It would be a matter of space. This is easy to fix, but we need a consensus.

Q. Can't the Town Clerk choose the spot where she is putting the A's?

A. No, it is programmed in. The report is preformatted because not all towns are alike. We have to leave room for all of the different items that are on lists across the state. Some towns need 6 spaces for street numbers, for example. It is a space game; you have to accommodate for the worst case scenarios.

Q. So if you print in black and white, just make sure it is clear where the A's are, highlight them in something bright. Could the A be in a different font, like script?

A. Yes, we have made it red and bold, but we could also make it different.

Q. Concerning EDR, we were told that the online registration will be turned back on at 6:00 am on Election Day to help voters. Will it be turned off again, at 8 pm, or left on?

A. Great question. We need to talk about that, because that is a great suggestion to turn it off at 8:00 pm, since that is the deadline to register for that evening. That way towns are not receiving registration information past the deadline. What is the downside to turning it off? At the conference we discussed a piece of legislation that had passed that allows all towns to use the online voter registration system on Election Day. The voter registration deadline before the Election has been changed to one deadline, seven days before the Election for mail in, in person and online. Then for six days there is limited registration for those with matured voting rights: so new citizens, just turned 18 and just moved to town can still register with that timeframe. And then on Election Day you can register to vote. So our plan is to turn the Online registration off at seven days, just as we did when it was fourteen days. So that no one can continue to use it and provide registrations that are otherwise not eligible to register to vote. We are turning it back on Election day for EDR purposes. There are a few towns that are planning on having

kiosks with laptops or tablets for folks in line to complete their own Election Day Registrations, so that by the time they get to the front of the line, their registration is already in the CVRS system. Then it is just a few clicks to complete and accept the application, instead of having to type in a completed card. I had presumed that we would turn the system off at 8:00 pm, but we need to hear if there is any downside to doing that.

Q. If someone is halfway through an online registration, would they lose their right to vote? What would happen to their half done registration? Should we hand out paper applications starting at 7:45 pm to those in line? Would a Registrar be needed to sign the cards, to ensure the applications are approved by 8:00 pm?

A. Currently if you are not in the CVRS system by 8:00 pm, you don't vote, because the statute specifies that you must have completed your registration and checked in previous town, in order to cast a ballot. So even if you are in line, you don't vote if you aren't done. This is the same instruction you were given last year to process EDR. We sent a memo, to clarify this after the last conference. If you think about the logic of this, we need to ensure that no one is calling previous towns well after 8 pm. The idea is that no one will be seeking information about transferring to other towns after the close of the polls.

Q. So we need to tell voters about this when they come in late and it would probably help us to have the online registration turn off at 8 pm. But when would it be turned back on?

Q. I am getting anxious about the Presidential Election, when you look at how many Presidential ballots we issued in 2012, we had 1200 ballots. So if we have to process over 100 people an hour, so possibly we will need 25 laptops for people to key in their own information. Then we will need a dozen people and multiple phone lines to process the voters. Have you considered developing logistical guidelines for what towns will need to have in place?

A. In 2014 we did have a team of 2 or 3 people that went around to a lot of the larger towns to sort of review the process and to create a tutorial. That seemed to work well.

Q. Since there will be no more Presidential ballots, for the most part, they will all have to come through the EDR process. Have you thought about, for example, what Disney does, to get people quickly through the lines?

A. We can't advise specific information to every locality, but in the original EDR document we put together with a group of Registrars we did provide a calculation on how to staff and what to expect. We used the Presidential ballot numbers to determine a flow rate and then there were a few calculations that you could use based upon Wisconsin. That was anticipating how many ballots to buy.

Q. The Presidential Ballot process is a lot simpler than what we are doing. We got yelled at in 2012 for having long lines, so instead of this happening in two or three towns, fifty towns could be having trouble. What are we doing to prepare for this?

A. We are hoping with the big change in the voter registration deadline - from fourteen to seven days, there will be a much smaller number who will need EDR. We can also communicate to voters that if you don't want to wait in a long line on Election Day get registered before the deadline. All of us can help get that message out, in your towns, on your websites. If you have any suggestions for us, if there is any way to help you, please let us know.

Q. Could you create some guidelines based on your study from 2014 as to how many stations should we have to accommodate EDR? How many phone lines do we need? Best practice logistics would really help us out.

Q. On Election Day, is the Online Voter Registration going to have a message, so that voters will be able to register at home and then know where they need to go to vote?

A. Yes.

Q. Our biggest issue in 2014 was with UConn, we registered the kids when they were 17 and then they registered again at UConn, which does not pull their registrations. We do go to the High School and register our students, so we have a lot of our graduates who go to UConn. So we are removing them on Election Day to off, but then they are not pulled by Mansfield until well after the Election.

A. So this is an Election Day, EDR issue? Mansfield is not pulling on Election Day?

Q. Could we have a list of the DMV moves to town, in addition to the lists we get of moves within town and moves out of town? I would like to be able to send them cards.

A. Currently voters should be receiving a card from the town they leave, but you can't follow up on that. The DMV is difficult when doing what is statutorily required, so it is unlikely they would share additional information that isn't required. Removal letters are required, but you can send letters as a courtesy to those who move to your town through land records.

Q. One negative with shutting down the Online voter registration at 8:00 pm is that all of the town wall clocks may not be synchronized.

A. Use your phone or computer time to be more accurate. The online system will be shut down based on the SOTS clock. That is a good point. This goes back to what time are you using for the Election. Do you have a standard practice in your town? Cellphones are probably easiest.

Q. One of the concerns with EDR was that the previous towns were noticing that some new towns were pulling voters before calling, which made it very difficult to figure out which polling place they belonged to for larger towns.

A. The frustration was that old towns need to be able to look their voters up before pulling them, to verify polling locations to call. That information does not stay in the system. You then have to determine their polling location, our suggestion is use the hard copy of your voter list. You need to have a manual backup. If CVRS were to go down on

Election Day, we have a backup system that we can put on an internet based website tool which we will give you all if it is needed. We did consider adding the previous polling location to the voter record that moves with the voter, but that seemed unnecessary.

Q. So when CVRS goes down, can we still process EDR?

A. EDR keeps going, the internet tool will allow you to lookup voters.

Q. So in our offices we need to have access to both an active and an inactive list?

A. Yes and I would imagine that you do that already, because you could lose your connection if CVRS went down.

Q. Why aren't inactive voters able to check their record to determine their polling location using the look up tool on the SOTS website? Inactive voters need to go to their polls, not to the EDR location.

A. The program that you are talking about was designed to comply with a Federal law. It was originally designed to let people in the military be able to look themselves up on the internet and it also tells them, if your Town Clerk uses CVR, whether or not they have been issued an absentee ballot and whether or not it has been returned. We expanded the program to let the general public be able to look up their voter record and polling location. It is possible to modify the program to include inactive voters.

Q. Our IT department has developed a tool that allow voters to enter an address to determine polling location.

A. Those tools are very handy. For towns with complicated voting layouts, where voter go to different locations depending on the event, those tools are very helpful.

Q. How does the Presidential Preference Primary affect the Canvass of Voters?

A. You can prepare and do everything in your canvass except for the mailing of the CVR letters until April 27th. When you preprint the letters you can fix the date to correctly note the 30 days of return.

Q. What about the rule about not making changes before Elections?

A. There is a federal law that specifies that you can't make certain changes right before Elections, but this does not apply to all moves off. You can remove voters who died or moved out of town or acceptance letter bounced. You cannot remove voters systematically before Elections. The NCOA list or the four year not voted list are systematic, so that is why the CVR letters are affected.

Q. There was a primary in New Britain and the two challengers, who lost, felt that the Spanish translation of the ballot is not proper and they are considering a lawsuit. The issue was that the translation was "vote for any of the three" instead of "vote for three" Can the language be clarified and addressed by an attorney? Was the translation out sourced? Does the state have a sanctioned version that we can use?

A. We did have the translation done by a guy who used to work for us, who is a Spanish native and who has a PhD in translations. We do have a contract with a certified translator for some of the others. We use the top firm for translations from NYC to prepare our election materials, and they are using Spanish as spoken here in Connecticut, not a different dialect.

Q. Are we going to get thrown under the bus if we wait, and do not report the Municipal results on Election Night? Will the Secretary of State be making statements to the press about who did not give results on Election night? We plan to send our results in on Election night, because the public perception is critical of late returns and we want to look like we are doing our job.

A. We have discussed this and certainly, you need to do what is best for you and your town. In a Municipal year, we do not certify the results. We do not even call recounts in a Municipal year. Local ballots are too complicated for us to call the results. We take your returns and post them online, but we don't do anything with them. So yes, you have 48 hours to finish your return, but if you think in your town the results need to be expedited on Election night, you need to make that decision. So if someone calls us to ask who won the hot race for mayor, we will say call the town. The Secretary for the local primaries told the press to go to the towns for results. We expect her to say the same for this Election. But to be fair, if you are way past the deadline, if it is Friday and you still haven't reported your results, then we may have to say something.

Q. Where does the clock start ticking for the 48 hours?

A. It starts at the close of polls. So Thursday at 8 pm. The close of the business day would be 44 hours.

Does everyone have the legislative summary that we sent out a few weeks ago? We sent it to the Town Clerks as well.

Q. We have a concern. 10 of our 11 polling places are in schools for the Presidential Preference Primary. By holding the primary on a school day, we are requiring the school to compromise their entire school system's security. We did try to get Professional Development to be rescheduled for the primary, but that didn't work.

A. Start talking to your superintendent now.

Q. The school cannot change their schedule; it is determined already. And even with security guards, we are requiring the front doors of the school to be open.

A. Meet with your superintendent to see which school principals are going to have a problem with it. We have tried to make this a state holiday in the past, but those talks did not go anywhere.

Q. Did the primary bill, which would let us move the location pass?

A. No, you cannot move the primary or consolidate polling places, that bill was tried three times and did not pass.

Q. On EDR, are you keeping the same call requirement to other towns that we have been using?

A. Yes, we are.

Motion to adjourn, seconded and passed unanimously at 12:03 pm