

Harford County ROVAC Meeting

Windsor, CT

6/13/2023 10:00am

54 members in attendance (26 in person, 29 via Zoom)

Chair Darlene Burrell, Suffield, opened the meeting at 10:00am, and suspended the regular meeting for the guest speaker Tim DeCarlo to begin.

Guest Speaker: Tim DeCarlo, Waterbury, Chair of the legislative committee, spoke via Zoom starting shortly after 10:00 am to discuss recent passing of the Early Voting bills.

Issues raised and discussed:

- This was the longest legislative session in history starting January 4th and closed June 7th.
- 3 bills passed, 2 of which were moved into the implementer bill.
- Early Voting Bill HB5004 (Public Act 23-5) - there were a several issues in the bill that ROVAC did not agree on, including how many days of voting there will be.
- There will be 14 days of early voting for all elections, 7 days for primaries, 5 days for presidential preference primaries, and no early voting for referendums. Holidays will not be included in the early voting days.
- There is a hearing process to add additional polling locations if the town population is over 20,000. This process will be handled by the local town legislators.
- The presidential preference primary will still be at the end of April. The bill died in the Senate.
- Funding did not happen to support implementation of early voting as we had anticipated and requested. Funding will only be provided for the administration of the presidential primary (April 2024) in the amount of \$10,500, and this is likely the only funding the registrars will be provided. Tim expects there will no additional funding provided for the fiscal year for 2025.
- Chair Darlene Burrell, Suffield asked about the new deadline for registration in the early voting bill. Tim explained the bill moves up the regular voter registration deadline to 18 days before an election or primary, however one will be able to register and vote similar to EDR during the early voting period. Tim felt the language was a bit contradicting and confusing and is going to need further clarification and possibly correction during the next legislative session. Discussion continued further to explain that CVRS should be able to alert the registrars if an elector has cast an early vote in more than one town. Clarification on whether the Online registration will be closed the day before early voting is needed.
- Early voting locations must be open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., including weekends, except on the last Tuesday and Thursday before the election, the polls must be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and each location will have 1 moderator at every early polling voting location, though

more poll workers can be added if needed. Registrars can serve as moderators, and there is no language that states there needs to be a moderator from each major party.

- End of the day, all early voting ballots must be turned into the town clerk to be locked up in a secure vault. If the town clerk cannot perform this task, the registrar can get approval from SOTS to make other arrangements.
- Tim explained it was likely probable that SOTS will have to do a correction bill in the February legislative session once all the issues and quirks in the current bill are figured out.
- Discussion on whether the registrar's office will need to remain open during early voting hours. Tim explained that technically the registrar of voters' office does not need to remain open unless it is your early voting polling location.
- Senate bills 1226- An Act Concerning State Voting Rights in Recognition of John R. Lewis and 1190- An Act Concerning Regional Election Advisors and A Task Force on Election Administration in Municipalities were both folded into the passed implementer bill. The voting rights act incorporated federal law in Ct law. Rank choice was mentioned in the bill but there must be legislation on it before it can be implemented. The implementer bill also adds 4 new SOTS positions.
- Discussion about whether a voter can pull their early voting ballot. Tim explained that as of now the language doesn't seem to indicate allowance for that and is an issue that the SOTS attorneys will have to determine.
- Further questions regarding the cog monitor senate bill and what exactly is their role. Tim explained that the bill simply allows funding for this position.
- This summer SOTS should begin working on a manual for implementation of early voting.
- There will be No EDR at primaries

Regular ROVAC meeting began at 11:00. Anita Mips, Windsor, made the motion and Phil Theroux, Rocky Hill, 2nded.

Chair Darlene Burrell, Suffield thanked the Windsor ROVs, Anita Mips and Victoria Virgo-Christie for hosting the meeting. Mindy Lewis, South Windsor is taking minutes for Sue Larsen, South Windsor. Kevin McCauley, Bristol, assisted with the zoom technology.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Sue Burnham, Treasurer, South Windsor

Sue Burnham informed the committee of her updated email address and requested that people change their contacts accordingly: Susan.burnham@southwindsor-ct.gov. She thanked all the registrars that paid their fees towards the spring conference raffle and explained that the money raised goes towards the Judy Beaudreau scholarship for students who have worked the elections. The selected award winners receive \$250 dollars. Please bring \$10 to the next January meeting for the spring conference baskets.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE: Sue Burnham, South Windsor

Total profit from ticket sales at the spring conference was \$3,539. \$2,474 was from raffles and \$1,065 from the 50/50 drawing. Sue thanked the committee members for their hard work selling tickets.

AUDIT COMMITTEE: Donna Rusgrove, Burlington

There were no changes or updates to report. Next meeting is August 2nd in New Britain.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

No committee members present at the meeting, no report presented. Brief discussion stating that the board will be revamping the committee.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE- Ann Clark, Avon

Reported that the spring convention was well attended. The spring convention will be in Bristol, no dates have been released. The fall conference will be at the Windsor Marriott September 19th and 20th.

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE: Darlene Burrell, Suffield

There will be changes to the handbook coming soon. A meeting will be scheduled soon to go over changes.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Theresa Avery, Newington

No new report, Tim DeCarlo had already covered all the updates. Brief discussion on when SOTS Stephanie Thomas will join us at another meeting. Planning on February to invite her to join us.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE: Anita Mips, Windsor

No update

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE: Lisbeth Becker, Glastonbury

Discussion about our new election systems company KNOWiNK. Last July, after 3 days of meetings to identify RFPs, KNOWink, a company mostly located in the western states, won the bid to bring in a new system. The new system is called Total Vote. Lisabeth discussed the various aspects of the new system, explaining the biggest change to what our data will look in regards to voter info. It is a more flexible program than we have been using. EMS and CVRS will be integrated into this new system. Hoping to have a demo at the upcoming fall and spring conferences. Goal is to have it implemented possibly by June of 2024.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE: Peter Gostin, New Britain

Appointments of committee members

Conference Committee: Anita Mips, Windsor

Education: Phil Theroux, Rocky Hill, Veronica Rosario, East Hartford, Carey Farluno, Marlborough, Sue Larsen, South Windsor

Technology Committee: Ann Kilby, Marlborough

Handbook Committee: Donna Rusgrove, Burlington, Paul Willis, Granby, Darlene Burrell, Suffield, Lisbeth Becker, Glastonbury

Legislative Committee: Theresa Avey, Newington, Mindy Lewis, South Windsor, Matt Bunko, Southington, Peter Goslin, New Britain (alt), Tom Pugliese, Rocky Hill (alt). Sue Larsen (Honorary Member)

OTHER BUSINESS

Darlene Burrell created a calendar for the upcoming meetings this year.

There was a discussion regarding keeping the hybrid online/in-person ROVAC county meetings. A vote was called, by Sue Burnham, South Windsor. The majority of members preferred to keep the hybrid meetings. Darlene requested that efforts be made to continue to come in person and participate.

The committee formerly welcomed new registrar Jolene Lusitani from Bristol.

Ann Kilby, Marlborough suggested all the ROVAC counties post their meeting minutes to the ROVAC site so all members can read them.

The upcoming ROVAC county meetings dates/location were discussed and decided upon and are as follows:

October 10, 2023- Newington

January 9, 2023- Windsor

March 12, 2024 – Newington

June 11, 2024- Windsor

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 (motion made by Theresa Avey, Newington, Seconded by Anita Mips, Windsor)