

## **2014 Election Process Review Committee**

### **Committee Charge**

One of the most important rights of our residents is the right to vote. It is critically important that the Town of Fairfield through the Registrar of Voters do everything possible to maintain the integrity of the election process and the right of our citizens to vote for the candidates of their choice. During this recent election, there seemed to be an unusually large number of issues raised. Some of these issues include concerns over correct ballots being distributed, adequate training of poll workers and handling of absentee ballots. In light of this situation, it is appropriate to have a bi-partisan committee review the recent election process with the following charge:

1. A bi-partisan committee will be formed with a total of four members two each from the Republican and Democratic parties.
2. The committee will compile a list of issues and concerns raised by citizens and volunteers related to this past election season including those issues involved with absentee ballot handling.
3. The committee will look to determine the circumstances and cause of each issue identified.
4. The committee will review with both Registrars what actions can be taken to improve the voting process for future elections.
5. The committee will reach out to both Registrars, the volunteer poll workers, voters, the Secretary of the State's office, past Registrar's of the Town and possibly others.
6. The committee will also consider the amount of and approach to training, review machine testing and back up process for machine failure, the timelines and completeness of communication between the Registrars, the approach to absentee ballot counting and the timeliness of vote/results tabulation & reporting to the public.
7. The committee will report back to the Board of Selectmen and both Registrars with their results and recommendations.

While the Registrars of Voters do not report to this committee or anyone in town except the voters, it is critical that we as a town have confidence in our election process and that all possible steps are taken to confirm the integrity of our election process. The committee recommendations may not be binding on the Registrars but will be a step towards clarifying the issues. Ultimately, it is the job of both Registrars to confirm the integrity of our elections and establish the proper protocols to instill the confidence of the candidates, volunteers and voters.

This committee will report back to the Board of Selectmen within 60 days with their findings.

Approved by BOS – 12/3/2014