

ALLEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Sherrie L. Riebel
COUNTY CLERK

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February 15, 2012

To: Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections

Re: Testimony on Senate Bill 389

From: Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk

Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

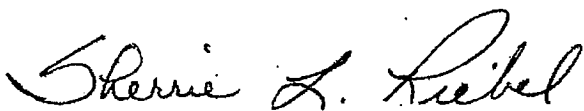
Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 389.

Since the law changed in 2011, Allen County has been working on promoting voter education at our special events; Allen County Fair, Farm City Days and local service clubs. If Allen County did a public service announcement, it would not cost the taxpayers' money as our radio station will do public service announcements without charge. The money saved from the cost of ads such as these could be used for other vital election needs; equipment, programs and training.

I wonder if these mailings arriving at the same time as numerous political campaign mailings would even be noticed or reviewed. Our two local newspapers are very good about educating the public to election changes. I feel each county knows best how to reach their voters. Several of the items listed in this legislation will already be done; not passing this bill would allow each county to educate their public the best suited to them.

I urge the committee to report Senate Bill 389 as unfavorable. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sherrie L. Riebel
Allen County Clerk