

JOHNSON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

Darlene Atwood, Administrator of Elections



158 Election Avenue ◆ Post Office Box 106 ◆ Mountain City, Tennessee 37683
Phone (423) 727-8592 ◆ Fax (423) 727-9168

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TO: Honorable Jim Cooper - Fax 202-226-1035
Honorable Steve Cohen - Fax 202-225-5663
Honorable Lincoln Davis - Fax 202-226-5172
Honorable Bart Gordon - Fax 202-225-6887
Honorable John Tanner - Fax 202-225-1765

FROM: ^{DA} Darlene Atwood, Administrator of Elections
Johnson County Election Commission

RE: HR811 (the Holt Bill)

Gentlemen:

I sincerely believe that passing the above-referenced legislation, with the timelines and requirements as they now are, would create an abundance of problems in the 2008 presidential election. There may be a number of issues which need to be addressed in the conduct of fair elections in the United States as a whole, and in some states more than others (apparently). However, to pass this long and complicated piece of legislation, with such a short time to implement new procedures nationwide before November 2008, will be something we will all live to regret, in my opinion.

There are good objectives in this legislation, all of which could probably be accomplished by means other than a "sledgehammer" bill in which the cost to benefit ratio seems to be not great. I am thinking as an election administrator with more than 20 years experience, and I have confidence in our election system in Tennessee essentially as it is now. I would not like to see the administration and decision-making process of local elections be forever moved from state to federal control.

If you have fully reviewed this bill, and believe it is a good thing, I am asking you to consider the possibility of implementation over a longer period of time, in stages which could reasonably be accomplished without the probability of chaos during the 2008 presidential election. In this case, it would not be just a few states, it could be all of us.

Thank you for the work you do, and thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important piece of legislation.