

**Testimony by Claire Snyder-Hall**  
**Executive director of Common Cause Delaware**  
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Common Cause Delaware strongly oppose HB 121.

Honestly, I find this bill shocking. It is an outrageous attempt to give wealthy property owners who do not live in Seaford — and might not even live in Delaware — a say in Seaford town elections. And it allows corporations to vote, even though, despite the opinions of some, corporations are not actually people and thus should never be given the right to vote.

Ten years ago in Delaware, after a major campaign finance scandal that sent people to prison, Chief Justice Norm Veasey issued a report, calling for a law that prohibits artificial entities from making campaign contributions. His recommendation has never been implemented but this bill doubles down in the wrong direction. It puts artificial entities on steroids by giving them the right to vote, a right that should be reserved for flesh and blood human beings.

The Seaford Mayor supports the right of businesses to vote, saying, “There are people who have invested a ton of money in our town – in businesses – and then wonder why they can’t vote, ... just because they live outside of city limits...” “They can’t vote ... but their employees can.”

With all due respect to the Mayor, that is absurd. People who don’t live in Seaford – or even in Delaware – should not get to vote in town elections, even if they own a business in Seaford. And of course the employees get to vote. They live there! That’s how it works. People get to vote where they live – and not because they own property but simply because they live there.

People who snowbird in FL do not get to vote in both DE and FL. It doesn’t work that way. In this country, the wealthy don’t get to vote multiple times in multiple places. It’s one person, one vote.

While it’s true that some municipalities already allow corporations to vote in town elections, we need to change their charters, so that cannot continue to happen. We certainly do not want that practice to spread.

The people of Rehoboth Beach beat back a similar effort a few years ago, and we thank Speaker Schwartzkopf for protecting Rehoboth.

In short, wealthy people should not be allowed to vote more than once, and corporations should never be allowed to vote.

Please vote no on HB 121.

Thank you.