



CGA Government Administration and Elections Committee
March 24, 2021 Public Hearing
Testimony Submitted by Yvonne Senturia, Election Law Specialist

Opposition to:

HB5540 AAC CERTAIN AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE
HB6325 AAC THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE, ABSENTEE BALLOTS AND ELECTION AUDITS

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut is a nonpartisan, statewide organization that seeks to make it easier for eligible voters to register and maintain their voter registration, to promote active citizenship, and to build confidence in elections and government through effective public policy. We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on bills before you today.

HB5540 AAC CERTAIN AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE

The League believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote and encourages efforts to maximize voter participation. The League supports a system of open government that is representative, accessible and responsive. The office of the Secretary of State is the position that is responsible for elections and this therefore makes the Secretary of State accountable for the conduct of elections. In fact, current CT election laws prioritize accountability and clearly lay out procedures for conducting, counting, reporting, and even contesting the results of an election. All these things happened in the 2020 primary and general elections in CT.

The measure outlined in this bill would result in the Secretary of State not being able to be as responsible and accountable to voters. *The League opposes HB5540 which by interfering with the lawful authority of the Secretary of State to oversee the conduct of free and fair elections would decrease voter confidence in and access to elections.*

HB6325 AAC THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE, ABSENTEE BALLOTS AND ELECTION AUDITS

The League believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote in safe and secure elections and encourages effort to maximize voter participation. Many elements outlined in this bill are duplicative of current statutes, others would decrease voter access and present privacy issues in particular regarding absentee ballots. *The League opposes HB6325 which includes multiple measures designed to restrict the conduct of elections and make the election process less secure and less accessible to voters.*

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment upon these bills.