

Good morning Chairmen and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

I'm Ethan Book, speaking from Bridgeport in vigorous opposition to HJ-58 and 59, proposed resolutions seeking Constitutional amendments to allow for no-excuse mail-in voting and to allow for early voting.

In 2020, I was the Republican candidate for State Rep. for the 128th District, the central portion of Bridgeport. My team ran a very active candidacy. That was my most recent run as a serious candidate in the state. My experience coupled with many yet unaddressed questions about the 2020 election processes nationwide have left me with concerns. These concerns I've reported on social media; have raised them in several unanswered requests for public information; and others I have raised in a lawsuit against the Secretary of State and the Bridgeport Registrars of Voters.

The no-excuse mail-in voting gives greater opportunity for voting fraud and vote harvesting. We already know that there have been major problems of voter fraud in Bridgeport as was confirmed in a 2019 Superior Court decision in *Lazar v. Ganim*.

Also, the no-excuse mail-in voting gives focus on vote quantity at the expense of vote quality.

Both proposals would allow for early voting, even *before* candidates, such as Republican candidates or Independent or other minor party candidates in this Blue State, have a complete opportunity to campaign to meet the voters and get out our messages. This becomes a distinct advantage for the establishment Democrat majority candidates.

It is illogical that the state would even consider these constitutional changes *before* there is reasonable attention to Registrars purging the lists of inactive voters, of checking citizenship, and of poll workers verifying voter identification and verifying signatures of absentee voters. It would also be wrong to consider such changes *before* the recent election has been fully reviewed. I have had pending for three months unanswered Freedom of Information Act requests regarding the voting (*i.e.*, seeking access to votes to verify count, access to rejected votes, voter check-off lists, etc.). Also, my lawsuit against the Secretary of the State and the Registrars of Voters hasn't even gotten past the answer and discovery stages. In addition, we all have heard about issues of the postal service, of which I can add several. Further, I have yet to see the results of the audits conducted by the Secretary of State of random selected voting precincts.

Thus, the promoters of these bills who say that "[m]ore than 650,000 voters voted securely by absentee ballots in the 2020 CT General Election" *have no sound basis to say that the voting was secure.*

For all, the consideration of these bills is unfounded and very premature.

These proposed steps are "no good".

Thank you for your attention. May God bless this Constitution State.

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