

Dear Legislators,

My name is Tracy Bowens, I am a voter from Hamden. I am writing in support of you passing both HJ 58, a Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Permit No-Excuse Absentee Voting; and HJ 59, a Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Permit Early Voting.

We need to ensure that everyone has access to the voting and these measures, as we have seen, go a long way to ensuring that. 43 states offer in-person early voting options, including 6 states with all-mail elections, making it unnecessary for them. Connecticut lags behind most of the nation. Many voters work 2 or 3 jobs just to keep their families afloat and need more options than just a single day to get time off for voting. Nearly 80% of Connecticut voters support early voting.

More than 650,000 voters voted by absentee ballot in the 2020 CT General Election—which means they voted early on their own schedules. Connecticut's record-breaking 80% voter turnout in the 2020 General Election was thanks to absentee ballot voting. Furthermore, 73% of Connecticut voters support giving all voters the option to vote by absentee ballot without needing an excuse.

The choice is clear. Please choose democracy and pass HJ 58 and HJ 59.

Kind regards,
Tracy Bowens