

February 19, 2021

Dear Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, Ranking Members Sampson and Mastrofrancesco, Distinguished Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, Senator Bob Duff and Representative Terrie Wood:

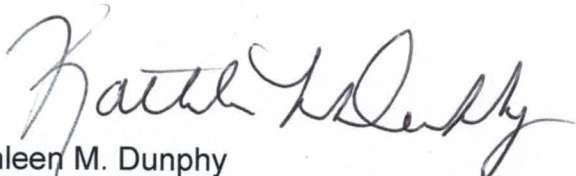
I am writing to you today to voice my strong support for HJ58 and HJ59, the resolutions proposing constitutional amendments to allow no-excuse absentee and early voting in Connecticut.

While many other states have taken steps to make election accessibility easier (by allowing early voting, mail-in voting, installation of ballot "drop boxes", etc....), Connecticut is one of the few states that does not generally allow these accessibility options for its registered voters. My husband and I, senior citizens who take pride in voting in every election that occurs (local, statewide and national), were especially pleased with the manner in which Connecticut allowed no-excuse absentee voting during last Fall's election amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. If I remember the statistics correctly, a large percentage of Connecticut voters took advantage of the no-excuse absentee voting with no serious accusations of fraud or ballot manipulation arising. And that expanded access to voting allowed for record-breaking voter participation. Why not continue making voting easier by PERMANENTLY expanding voter access (i.e., not just during times of crisis such as the Covid-19 pandemic)? Senior citizens, essential workers whose work shifts do not easily correspond to traditional voting hours, commuters who travel distances from their home polling sites, etc....would all benefit from both early voting options and no-excuse absentee voting. Our democracy benefits when every voice can be heard; it is our duty to ensure that when we say "voting is a right, not a privilege" that we make it easier for all voters, regardless of party affiliation, income or locality status, to vote.

In addition, I believe that strengthening our representative democracy requires more than making it easier to vote; it requires that winning candidates better reflect the will of the majority. That's the benefit of Ranked Choice Voting, and why I urge you to raise [HB-5884, the Act Establishing a Task Force to Study Ranked Choice Voting](#). A similar bill was voted out of your Committee in 2019, passed the House, and was raised again last year, demonstrating the widespread support that exists among Assembly.

Thank you for considering these important voting and election reforms.

Sincerely,



Kathleen M. Dunphy
Home Address: 10 Hamilton Lane, Darien, CT 06820
Home Phone: (203) 655-8164
E-Mail: kmdunphy@yahoo.com