

"We the People of the United States" sets the main idea of the Constitution of our United States. We govern through representatives. We elect our people to represent our voice. Voting for US citizens is the key to our democracy. I in strongest terms support the bills before the CT legislation session to expand voting rights. I am in support of HJ No. 58 and 59 which propose to a State Constitutional Amendment to Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting and which propose an amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for Early Voting respectively.

In an NORWALK HOUR article I wrote this fall which encouraged my fellow Norwalkers to be aware and alert to expanding our voting rights when thinking of the candidates to get put in office. " [Can you easily get to the corner of Monroe Street and South Main Street where the Norwalk Police Station is? Or to the front entrance of the Norwalk City Hall? These are where Norwalk's 2 Ballot Boxes can be found. I am among the predicted large number of citizens choosing mail-in absentee ballots in November. Walking or driving to the above addresses can become a powerful way to protect our votes. But could we strategize to do more for voter access? I would like to press the case that we can.](#)

In the movie, "Good Trouble" John Lewis sits at his dining room table reading the morning newspaper and casually shares: "My greatest fear is that one day we may wake up and our democracy will be gone." We are at a moment in US history that voting access must be secured, and improved upon to preserve our democratic Republic. Key to our democracy is open voting access for all eligible voters. Recently in President Obama's eulogy for Lewis, he suggested we pass a new Voting Rights Act, and more "keep marching to make it(voter access) even better." Obama's suggested actions include among others, automatically registering

every American to vote, adding polling places and expanding early voting.

Connecticut currently does not have early voting. I think we should. We should do everything in our power to make it easier to vote, especially during a pandemic. Listening to Lucy Dathan and Stephanie Thomas, current and aspiring State Representatives respectively, both would vigorously “keep marching” as Obama urged by supporting a voter-access focus. I say we stand with them to legislate early voting, automatically register voters, and expand no-excuse absentee ballots. We can support Stuart Wells, the Norwalk Voter Registrar, by volunteering at the polls in November. My niece Christina and nephew James, college-aged kids, are doing just that. We need more. Voting is key to our democracy. Let’s do the work to make it easy.”

Respectfully,

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