

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for both early voting and no excuse absentee voting.

It is vital to our democracy that all eligible voters are engaged in the process of our representative form of government.

I believe that each hurdle or inconvenience to casting a vote, is a form of voter suppression.

Examples of voting hurdles and inconveniences include:

- restricting voting to only certain hours on one particular day;
- in-person voting (unless you have an allowable excuse);
- requesting an absentee ballot by a certain date, set prior to the election date;
- registration no later than some set date prior to the election date;
- pay for two primaries, but can't vote in either unless registered in one of the parties;
- gerrymandering districts so that elected officials select their voters and not the other way around;
- etc. ... you get the point

At some point the additive burden from each hurdle results in voter disenfranchisement. Voter disenfranchisement begets low voter turn-out, and low voter turn-out is toxic to a healthy democracy.

Please include in the record the September 22, 2020 article published in the Philadelphia citizen on the subject of voter apathy. <https://thephiladelphiacitizen.org/voter-apathy-truth/>

Let's reverse the trend on low voter turn-out. Connecticut can do more to encourage people to engage in the electoral process.

Enacting early voting and no excuse absentee voting is a very good start.

Thank you for your consideration,

Vincent Giordano
Ridgefield CT

Long-time voter