

**Testimony of Arnold L. Goldman, chairman  
Canton Republican Town Committee  
2/22/2021**

Chairmen Flexer and Fox, Ranking Members Sampson and Mastrofranco, honorable members,

My name is Arnold L. Goldman and I chair the Canton Republican Town Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to HB 6464, HJ 58 and 59, and SB 901.

The Canton RTC believes in fair access to voting for every citizen, whether born here or naturalized. No legal voter should have their rights undermined or their vote negated.

That said the Canton RTC opposes changes in election laws that create space for the perception or reality of improper voting by individuals or machinations that would undermine the validity of election results.

Since the founding the right of voting was balanced against the duty of voting, by putting the obligation on the voter to follow established process intended to make voting and elections orderly and transparent. Taking the time to personally appear on election day, going to the right place, proving who you were and that you had the right to vote in the jurisdiction in which you intended to, in short following proper procedure, was your obligation.

I can recall my parents bringing me with them to the polls, after their long work days were concluded, as an effort to buttress in me what it meant to have the right and responsibility to vote within the structures and rules established to do so. As an immigrant from a nation imprisoned under Communist rule, my mother knew well just how precious that right was, and how necessary it was for the citizen to be willing to exercise it within the established process set up to ensure both accuracy and fairness.

Loosening of the rules surrounding elections invites shenanigans by one side or the other which will in the long run weaken the confidence all citizens have in their elections. In so doing neither side wins, indeed Connecticut and America both lose.

I urge you to reject proposals to widely expand absentee voting, to allow early voting other than for legitimate absentee balloting, or by establishing as permanent, the extraordinary procedures put in place last year to allow democratic elections to take place in the face of the pandemic and its impact on society. Each of these measures, while perhaps well meaning, will ultimately result in less election confidence, while providing no demonstrable or necessary improvement in voter access to the polls. The pandemic is a once in a century event however, it does not justify 99-years of election disarray.

Please reject HB 6464, HJ 58 and 59, and SB 901. Thank you.



Arnold L. Goldman, chairman  
Canton Republican Town Committee