

Bills H. J. No 58 and 59

Dear Co-chair Flexer,

My name is June Hansen and I am the Democratic Registrar of Voters for the town of Clinton. (20 years).

Addressing H.J. No. 58- I believe allowing no excuse absentee ballots is a long time coming. People have fudged excuses for years and now we can properly prepare for the influx of ballots. Nothing can compare to this year so all years forward will be a snap.

Addressing H.J. No 59-as we all know early voting is available in some states. I am not opposed but we need to cover all bases.

1. Be cognizant of cost to towns/cities. It can't be a financial burden.
2. We can't place this extra responsibility on our town clerks. They can't be official checker, ballot distributor and machine tender all while doing their regular jobs.
3. EDR....this needs to be clarified...Day of Election? All days when we have voting sessions? This will also increase need for funding as we will need additional poll workers to keep this running smoothly.
4. Voting machines....and this is the most important. Can our memory cards batteries last if the machines are programmed and running for weeks. I know we can turn them off but that would be a major fail. Security for our machines/ ballot boxes. Some of us have small town halls or use schools as our polling places, we can't just leave them unattended and vulnerable to fraud.
5. Will voting sessions, days and times, be across the board in all towns/cities or can we decide when it's best for us?
6. My biggest concern is security of all things voting.
7. How will absentee ballots be dealt with...the same or some other way?

Our voters have their constitutional right to vote but when does it become too cumbersome? People do love coming to the polls, they love seeing their neighbors, getting an I Voted sticker and that feeling of accomplishment when that ballot goes through the machine. Our world has become so distanced with Covid restrictions and I think with the relaxing of Absentee ballot excuses do we really need early voting?

Sincerely,

June T. Hansen
Clinton
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Sent from my iPad