

Dear Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

My name is Valerie Horsley, I am a voter from Hamden, CT. Passing both HJ 58, a Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution State Constitution to Permit No-Excuse Absentee Voting; and HJ 59, a Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Permit Early Voting are extremely important to me because voting should be convenient. Many Connecticut residents travel for work and have other personal commitments that limit their ability to get to the polls on one specific day.

Connecticut should encourage voting in the most convenient and safe manner as possible. The COVID-19 pandemic gave us a test case for expanding absentee ballot use, allowing early voting. It was so nice to fill out my primary ballot on my dining room table with my husband and kids. We then walked a few blocks away to put the ballot in the mailbox on Whitney Avenue. For the November election, we decided to make use of the dropbox located at our town hall. I met a woman walking home from work dropping her ballot off. She and I talked about how nice and convenient this option is for us. For both elections, it was great to be able to check that our ballot was received online.

I enjoy going and filling out my ballot at my local polling location but the convenience of early voting and absentee ballots makes it less stressful and more possible to vote.

Thank you for working to make voting the most accessible for all CT voters.

Sincerely,

Valerie Horsley