

To the Legislature,

I have been a registrar for 14 years and am currently a moderator. Those are my qualifications for what I am about to endorse.

HJ No 58 doing a constitutional amendment is the most direct and easiest way to solve AB voting. With no excuse absentee balloting everyone who doesn't want to come to the polls, is unable to come to the polls, or just prefers to vote without having to have a specific day and time would have that opportunity. It would also alleviate the need for early voting. The AB voting process should no longer fall to the Town Clerks, but could be easily handled by the Registrars and their staff.

HJ No 59 Early voting would not be necessary if the constitution amendment is ratified. No excuse absentee balloting is in a sense early voting. Early voting would require 2 people, one from each party, available to document and accept the ballots at a cost to the towns and cities. It may also require a moderator to be available, again at a cost, to monitor the process the way our current voting regulations are written.

I would caution you all to be very thoughtful in what you choose to legislate. As we learned in last November's election, changes were made almost on a daily basis that made changes because the process wasn't working. Any change is going to require the expense of software updates and equipment updates. Please take these into consideration when make your choice. Again the easiest and least costly option is a constitutional amendment. It will give the same result as early voting and be easier to implement. It is already basically in place.

Charlene Janecek
Chester, Connecticut