

Respectfully submitted to Chairs Sen Mae Flexer & Rep. Daniel J. Fox & Vice Chair Sen. Will Haskell

Ranking Members Rob Sampson & Gale Mastrofrancesco

Fairfield County Reps Chris Rosario & Matt Blumenthal

As a Senior Citizen voter in Bridgeport CT, I support passage of [House Joint Resolution No. 58 \(HJ 58\)](#) and [House Joint Resolution No. 59 \(HJ 59\)](#).

I am Gail Janensch, of 3030 Park Ave. Bridgeport and Treasurer of the League of Women Voters of the Bridgeport Area (which supports these resolutions). YES, I dropped the mail-in ballot supplied by the CT Sec. of State for the November General Election in a legal Bridgeport dropbox at a day and time when convenient for me. I recognize that there would be significant cost to the State if these bills pass, but we learned that in my City, this did increase percentage of voters. That is a GOOD THING you can do this session to move this kind of voting forward.

I supported (as did the League) the earlier attempt to amend the Connecticut Constitution that failed largely because voters were confused by the complicated wording of the ballot question. This time the general voting public clearly understands they will receive a ballot in the mail and have time to study it in a quiet place in their home or apartment. No politically-motivated individual will knock on the door offering to "help" a senior like me decide who to vote for. Surely you know this false kind of "help" happened election after election in Bridgeport.

I strongly support these bills because they strengthen our democracy and expand our voting rights. Current in-person voting can be difficult for non-drivers, the disabled and certain workers who cannot take time off. Voting locations are not all on bus lines. Furthermore, in Bridgeport, absentee ballot fraud in my 9 years in Bridgeport has been

documented by major news outlets and in evidence presented in a 2020 court case that did not result in any convictions.

According to Common Cause, 73% of all Connecticut voters support giving all voters the option to vote using an absentee ballot without an excuse and nearly 80% of Connecticut voters support early voting.

Your support now is an important first step to a change in the outmoded CT Constitution. The Northeastern states are the last hold outs to adopt more flexible ways to vote. Our steady habits regarding voting MUST change.

Thank you!

Gail E Janensch

gailj2@optonline.net

203.856.4360 (iPhone)

3030 Park Ave Rm C 12

Bridgeport, CT 06604