

To whom it may concern:

When COVID-19 hit, members of the Connecticut legislature jumped into action to safeguard voting rights and ensure that voting would be safe, secure, and accessible throughout the pandemic.

Not only was Connecticut able to run a smooth and effective election, voter participation reached near-record highs with nearly 80% of registered voters participating.

As a Southington resident, I believe Connecticut still lags behind our neighbors and states across the country when it comes to voter access. As we head into the next legislative session, I urge you to support reforms that would include:

1. A constitutional amendment to allow all registered voters to vote by absentee ballot without an "excuse"
2. A constitutional amendment to allow early, in-person voting
3. Legislation to allow for absentee ballots to be counted early

Connecticut must take this historic opportunity to join the 44 other states across the country that allow in-person early voting. Early voting is a simple step that would make our voting process more accessible while helping to cut down on Election Day lines. For many working families, getting to the polls on Election Day is no easy task, forcing some to choose between family and work obligations, and their civic duty. With early voting, they would no longer be forced to make that choice.

As you know, enacting early voting, as well as expanding absentee ballot voting, would require a constitutional amendment, like the one proposed by Secretary Merrill. I agree with Secretary Merrill that voters shouldn't have to wait years for these reforms to become reality – the time for these reforms is now.

Sincerely,

Elyse Krantz

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