

Testimony for Public Hearing on HJ 58 on 2/22/21 NOT IN SUPPORT

Connecticut has always had mail-in balloting for voters who are infirm, ill, or will be away on Election Day. It has worked well for all of us. This bill allows the Secretary of State to send out ballot applications to everybody on the voter rolls, whether or not those lists are accurate or sorely out of date.

In 2002 when Republicans were in favor of mail-in balloting and Democrats were opposed, Congress passed a law sponsored by Democrats Steny Hoyer and Bernie Sanders requiring mail-in ballots to have ID verification and mandating accurate voter rolls. Today Democrats call this “voter suppression.”

In 2005 a bipartisan report by Jimmy Carter’s Commission on Federal Election Reform stated: “Absentee ballots remain the largest source of potential voter fraud.”

In 2008 Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Paul H. Anderson wrote: “The right to have one’s vote counted is as important as the act of voting itself.”

And in 2012, even a New York Times headline said: “Error and Fraud at Issue as Absentee Voting Rises”

Why the suspicion of integrity with mail-in ballots? Because it opens the door to intimidation, pressure, vote buying, and huge numbers of errors. A 2012 MIT study found that 800,000 (21%) ballots were rejected in (at that time) the recent election. The Nov. 2020 election saw one county reject 68% of the ballots. Any of those voters who were legitimate lost the right to have their vote counted.

While the media claim there is no voter fraud, there are some 3.5 million more people registered to vote than there are American adult citizens who are alive. Even in our own Middlesex County in 2016, there were 113% more voters than adults eligible to vote. How many of them have had their ballots mailed-in by others? Unless perpetrators are caught, virtually impossible to ascertain when millions of ballots pour in, and prosecuted, we have no way of knowing.

Citizens need to have faith that we have election integrity. Media and politicians’ empty rhetoric doesn’t do it. Many of us have had multiple ballot applications delivered to us in this last election. What we need are failsafe voting rules that eliminate as much as possible any chance for fraud. Universal mail-in balloting fails to do that.

It is for these reasons that I vigorously support keeping the absentee ballot rules as specified in our state Constitution. I DO NOT SUPPORT this bill and hope you will vote against it.

Linda Lavelle
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