

Dear Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, and Distinguished Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee,

My name is Barbara Mechler, and I'm a resident of Southbury. I strongly support HJ-58, a Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Permit No-Excuse Absentee Voting.

In Southbury, 13,101 votes were cast in the most recent election, 44% by absentee ballot. Similar percentages were found in CT House District 69 (43.7%) and Senate District 32 (31.8%). Clearly, the pandemic impacted voters' choosing absentee ballots, but affording voters the opportunity to vote safely and conveniently should be everyone's goal. The CT League of Women Voters believes voters should be able to choose the method that works best for them: in-person early voting, in-person voting on Election Day, or no excuse absentee voting. Connecticut AARP's Executive Director, John Erlingheuser, agrees. "Connecticut should enact measures that encourage maximum participation in the electoral process by expanding the range of voting choices."

Residents of Southbury, with the largest senior population in CT, deserve a no-excuse absentee voting option. Help CT join the thirty-four other states already affording their voters this opportunity. Please support HJ-58 so all CT voters have access to no-excuse absentee ballots.

Sincerely,

Barbara Mechler
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