

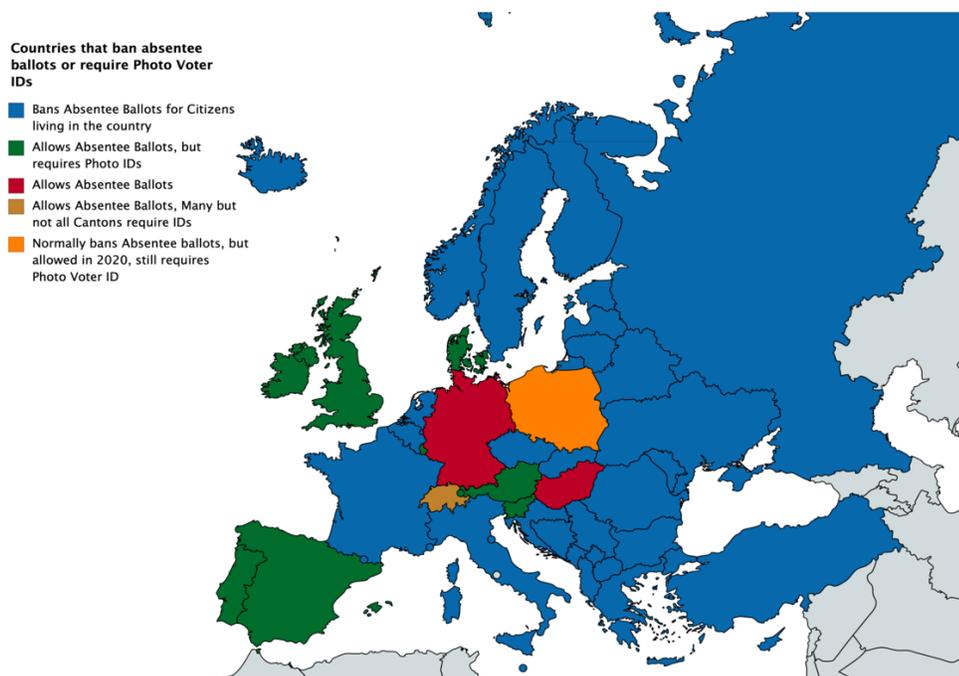
Hello. My name is Victoria Morton and I am a resident of Greenwich, Connecticut.

I am writing to **OBJECT** to the following bills that are being proposed:

- H.J. No. 58 (Comm) The resolution proposing a state constitutional amendment to allow no-excuse absentee voting.
- H.J. No. 59 (Comm) The resolution approving an amendment to the state constitution to allow for early voting.
- S.B. No. 901 (Raised) An act extending to June 30, 2021 the changes implemented for the 2020 state election as a result of COVID-19.
- H.B. No. 6464 (Raised) An act extending to May 31, 2021 several changes implemented for the 2020 state election as a result of COVID-19.

I believe that voting is one of the most important and sacred responsibilities that a citizen holds in our great country, and, for that reason, it should be done on election day, in person, to ensure that it is carried out with integrity.

Throughout the developed world, most countries have much more restrictive voting laws than currently exist in the US and Connecticut. In a 152 page report by John Lott of the Crime Prevention Research Center (8/2/2020), titled "Why do most countries ban mail-in ballots?: They have seen massive voter fraud problems," it is stated that most developed countries ban absentee ballots unless the citizen is living abroad or has a special certificate verifying that they are disabled. (Report can be found at [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3666259](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3666259))



It wasn't that long ago that it was believed fairly unanimously in the US that voting by mail was subject to problems. In a 2010 NY Times article, titled "Error and Fraud at Issue as Absentee Voting Rises," it was noted that "votes cast by mail are less likely to be counted, more likely to be compromised and more likely to be contested than those cast in a voting booth, statistics show." The Times article also stated, "fraud is easier by mail."

In a 2005 study conducted by the *Commission on Federal Election Reform*, led in part by the former President Carter and former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, "a bipartisan panel of American statesmen and stateswomen...studied the future of US elections and issued strong words of caution that the expansion of mail-in voting that began a few years earlier in Oregon posed real fraud risks, especially in close elections..." They also stated that it, "...raised concerns about privacy, as citizens voting at home may come under pressure to vote for certain candidates, and it increases the risk of fraud." They even questioned whether mail-in voting was ultimately effective in increasing voter participation.

The fact is, CT's electoral system is full of errors and inefficiencies that would make mass voting by mail very problematic. For example:

- There were 101k voters in 2020 who had a registration date of 1/1/1800
- 10,900 registered voters in CT are deceased (per the Public Interest Legal Foundation)
- 5,742 voters from 11/3/20 were actually shown as registered from 11/4/20-1/11/21
- There were potentially 2,650 CT voters that voted twice, which wasn't discovered until AFTER they voted
- 1,550 potential voters registered multiple times
- 247k voters who never voted before in CT
- 20+ CT voters who have already been convicted of voter fraud

As for the subject of early voting, early voting adds expense. It means more infrastructure to support the additional days. From what I can tell over the course of my time in CT, our expenses are already problematic, and we flirt with budget deficits every year. There is also the fact that early voting has not shown to increase voter turnout. A 2013 study released by professors from the University of Wisconsin that compared states with early voting to states without early voting in the 2004 and 2008 elections showed that early voting actually led to lower turnout. In fact, the longer the window of early voting, the greater the effect on lowering turnout.

For these reasons, I believe that voting in CT should be carried out on election day, in person, with identification, if we are going to maintain any sort of integrity in our election system. Voting is serious business as it is choosing the people that are going to make our laws. Anything that allows for the possibility of inaccuracy or malfeasance in our elections might serve to disenfranchise those that the elections are actually supposed to serve. People all over the world understand this responsibility and find ways to make their voices heard. There is no reason that Connecticut should be any different.

Thank you for your consideration.

Victoria Morton  
271 Lake Avenue  
Greenwich, CT 06830