

Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, ranking members Sampson and Mastrofrancesco and distinguished Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

I am writing to you in support of **HJ58 and HJ59**, the resolutions proposing constitutional amendments to allow no-excuse absentee and early voting in Connecticut.

While Connecticut is a leader in many areas, it is more difficult to vote here than in the majority of the states in our country. Connecticut is one of only seven states that do not allow EV, NEAV or vote-by-mail. NEAV was highly popular in 2020, with one-third of all ballots cast absentee. While there was some concern about the potential for voter fraud, there was no evidence of any widespread abuses. With the expanded access to absentee voting, we had record-breaking voter participation. Polls show that both EV and NEAV enjoy overwhelming public support from Connecticut voters of all affiliations, and not just during times of pandemic.

At the founding of our country, voting was treated as a privilege, primarily for white male landowners. We now know that it is a right of all of our citizens. If you believe that, I hope you will agree that we need to make it easier to vote, which is why I am asking you to vote both resolutions favorably out of the GAE Committee.

I would also like to take this opportunity to request that you raise **HB-5884, the Act Establishing a Task Force to Study Ranked Choice Voting**. A similar bill was voted out of your Committee in 2019, passed the House, and was raised again last year, demonstrating widespread support among voters and the General Assembly. Please move forward with this proposal to strengthen the representativeness of our government.

Thank you for considering these important voting and election reforms.

Sincerely,

Robert Nussbaum
Essex