

2/22/21: Subject line: Testimony in support of HJ58 (NEAV) & HJ59 (EV) ballot resolutions

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

I appreciate your work to improve and strengthen democracy in our state. I write in support of HJ58 and HJ59 (no-excuse absentee and early voting amendments), but also in support of HB5884 (The Act Establishing a Task Force to Study Ranked Choice Voting). All three pieces of legislation represent necessary steps forward for our democracy.

It's not fair to Connecticut voters that we're one of only seven states that does not allow either early voting or no-excuse absentee voting, and we should immediately adopt these reforms. Our 2020 elections showed that our state is capable of managing, and our voters responsible in using absentee voting on a wide scale. Early voting is critical to enfranchising more voters as well.

Ranked Choice Voting has been adopted by Maine and Alaska because it allows voters to be better represented. It solves the pernicious problems of *vote splitting* in crowded races, the problem of *spoiler effect* in 3-person races, and it meaningfully moderates the *toxic polarization* in our politics.

The acrobatic shenanigans that our democracy has endured because we have not moved beyond plurality voting can be and should be a thing of the past. Ross Perot, Ralph Nader, Oz Griebel, Donald Trump, *all injected drama and chaos into our elections of a kind that could be avoided with Ranked Choice Voting. Let the majority rule, not the plurality.*

Ranked Choice Voting is a non-partisan solution to non-partisan problems that affect us all.

Unlike HJ58 and HJ59, *HB5884 is only a study bill, and one that already passed the CT house of representatives in 2019.*

Please, let us at least *learn* how RCV can improve democracy in Connecticut.

Please support HB5884.

Sincerely,
Justin Paglino
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