

From: Tim Ryan, Trumbull, CT

To: Government Administration and Elections Committee

Subject: In Support of House Joint Resolution No. 58 (HJ 58) Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Permit No-Excuse Absentee Voting; and House Joint Resolution No. 59 (HJ 59) Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Permit Early Voting

Dear GAE Committee Members,

Bases on my experience, it's obvious that we need to make our elections easier to conduct and easier for voters to exercise their civic duties; long lines and forcing people to show up in person is contributing to lower turnouts, and lower engagement by citizens.

I used no excuse absentee voting this year because I planned on volunteering at the polls for the first time; I was assigned to St. Joseph's High School the shift went from 6:00 am- 9:30 pm. The leaders of the event were dedicated civil servants from both parties and conducted themselves admirably throughout the day, however, some observations I made during the day:

1. Some that came in the evening said they had come to vote on the way to work, but the lines were too long, and they left- this made we wonder how many others left and didn't come back?
2. Many voters were extremely upset with the wait times; or were mad at others that were holding up the process.
3. There were "fatigue" related incidences by the poll workers that could be avoided by reducing the # of voters showing up on Tuesday by offering early/mail in ballot options.

An important element of our democracy depends on the majority of our citizens participating in the election process, and people in authority that can make the election easier and smoother need to take action to make that happen.

Thank You for your attention.

Tim Ryan

Trumbull, CT