

Friday, February 19, 2021

Dear 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.

Connecticut is one of only seven states that does not allow early voting, no-excuse absentee voting or vote-by-mail, making it more difficult to vote here than in the vast majority of the nation.

We need to expand access to voting so that as many people vote as are eligible—our focus needs to be on removing all obstacles to voting.

We need to continue expanding the access to voting that was temporarily authorized because of the pandemic. The popularity of voting absentee meant that more people than ever were able to use their voice in our democratic process. I myself voted absentee and would have used "no-excuse" except that I worked at the polls for the first time and was therefore able to vote absentee because of my role that particular day (I was working all day at a town site that was not my assigned voting site).

If we say that voting is a right, and not a privilege, 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.

However, I believe that strengthening our representative democracy requires more than making it easier to vote; it requires that winning candidates better reflect the will of the majority. That's the benefit of Ranked Choice Voting, and why I urge you to 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 the widespread support that exists among voters and the General Assembly.

Thank you for considering these important voting and election reforms.

Sincerely,

Alison V. Scherer  
Avon