

Members of the CT Government Administration and Elections Committee:

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

Any rules/regulations/policies that make it easier for everyone to vote in national elections are paramount, as long as the rules also prevent voter fraud, and preserve the authenticity of each person's vote.

Our democracy was founded on a government elected "by the people, for the people"! Every adult citizen has the right to vote for our President and Vice President in the United States of America. We want to - need to -preserve our democracy. But we have all seen that in some states, actions such as gerrymandering and culling the voter lists have made voting very difficult for, or excluded, some people, in spite of their inherent "right to vote", compromising the meaning of our democracy.

CT has been more forward thinking with its voter regulations than many other states. And we just had a very successful Presidential election in November in which many of us took advantage of the no-excuse-needed mail-in-voting. For my contemporaries - in our 80's - this took all the pressure off of having to go to the polls on Election Day. Let us act on that success, and expand the options for voting to encourage and simplify the process, so that every single eligible voter in CT WILL vote in the next election, no matter what their age, their work's time constraints, their family needs, their health, the weather.

I hope drive-by voting will be possible as well someday, too.

It is shocking to think that not until the 20th Century were ALL people included on the voting rolls...namely, in the 19th C, Black citizens, and in the 20th C, women. Hard to believe. So let's move forward as a state, set a great example to other more restrictive states, and expand the voting options for all our residents.

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