

I am writing on behalf of the New Britain Area League of Women Voters.

The New Britain Area LWV strongly supports HJ 58, a RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING and HJ 59, a RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FOR EARLY VOTING. These two bills provide an excellent way to open up the path to voting for many of Connecticut's voters. It has been shown to be successful both in terms of access and security.

Past experience in the election of 2020 in Connecticut showed a large percentage of voters chose to vote by absentee ballot, many prior to Election Day. 35% of Connecticut ballots were cast successfully by absentee with a rejection rate of less than 1%. An outstanding number of voters, nearly 80%, participated in this election. Clearly many voters found that the use of absentee ballots which could be mailed or placed in designated ballot boxes, was a convenient, appropriate way to cast their vote.

Comments from our New Britain Registrar of Voters confirmed that most people who requested absentee ballots returned them. Furthermore, while the influx of absentee ballots created additional work for the registrars, it was well planned; processing the absentee ballots flowed smoothly on Election Day.

Polling of Connecticut voters has shown that approximately three-quarters of our voters support these two bills which would make voting much more convenient, while keeping it secure.

The New Britain Area League of Women Voters asks your support of both bills.

Thank you,
Ann Speyer, Secretary
New Britain Area League of Women Voters