

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

I am Barbara Wheeler from Southbury. I support the resolutions proposing constitutional amendments to allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting (NEAV) and Early Voting (EV) in Connecticut.

Time for Connecticut to move into the 21st century. Only one day to vote on a weekday! **Just archaic!!!!** A Tuesday in November after the harvest was selected hundreds of years ago so framers could get into their horse and buggy and go into town to vote. Life is so much more complicated in 2021.

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. Voting last year was easier for many of CT citizens. Because of the pandemic no-cause absentee voting was permitted last year. It worked so well with over one-third of voters chose to use an absentee ballot. While some people believe that there was voter fraud, there is no credible findings that voting was tainted by non-citizens voting or dead people voting.

Polls show that both EV and NEAV enjoy overwhelming public support from Connecticut voters of across the board, and not just during times of pandemic.

Voting is a right, and not a privilege and it should easier to vote, which is why I am asking you to vote both resolutions favorably out of the GAE Committee.

Thank you for considering these important voting and election reforms.