



Amending the State Constitution

In the November 2022 election, voters approved a constitutional amendment that allows the General Assembly to pass legislation establishing in-person, early voting. During the 2023 regular legislative session, the legislature may consider whether to place a proposed amendment related to no-excuse absentee voting on the November 2024 election ballot. It may also consider newly proposed amendments. This issue brief describes how the state constitution may be amended.

Amendments to the State Constitution Since 2000

| Year | Subject |
|------|---|
| 2008 | Voting in primaries by certain 17-year-olds |
| 2018 | Transportation funding |
| 2018 | Legislative conveyances |
| 2022 | In-person early voting |

Introducing a Proposed Amendment

Introducing a proposed constitutional amendment generally follows the same process as introducing a bill. Any legislator may propose an amendment to the state constitution; a proposed amendment is introduced as a joint resolution. During even-numbered years, individual legislators may propose only amendments that are of a fiscal nature.

Additionally, joint standing committees may raise resolutions proposing to amend the constitution if the subject matter is within their cognizance. The Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee has cognizance over constitutional amendments, and most resolutions proposing a constitutional amendment are taken up by the GAE Committee. However, proposed amendments may originate in other committees if they are within those committees' cognizance. For example, the constitutional amendment on transportation funding (approved by voters in 2018) was heard and favorably reported by the Transportation Committee.

By the Numbers

114

Number of House votes required for a three-fourths majority

27

Number of Senate votes required for a three-fourths majority

76

Number of House votes required for a majority of the membership

19

Number of Senate votes required for a majority of the membership

Save the Date

November 5, 2024

With one exception, a 2023 resolution proposing a constitutional amendment must be approved by a three-fourths majority of each chamber's membership to appear on the 2024 state election ballot.

In 2021, the legislature approved a proposed constitutional amendment on no-excuse absentee voting, which will be referred to the 2023 General Assembly. If the resolution passes by a majority of the membership in each chamber, it would appear on the 2024 state election ballot.

November 3, 2026

A 2023 resolution approved by a majority of each chamber's membership, but less than three-fourths, would be referred to the 2025 General Assembly. If that General Assembly approves the proposed amendment by a majority of the membership in both houses, the proposed amendment would appear on the 2026 state election ballot.

House and Senate Action

A resolution approved by at least three-fourths of the membership of each house of the legislature is placed on the ballot in the next regular state election. A resolution approved by a majority of the membership of each house but less than three-fourths is referred to the General Assembly session held after the next regular state election, where it must be approved by majorities in both houses before being placed on the ballot (Conn. Const. Art. XII). The resolutions are not subject to gubernatorial approval or veto.

If a majority of the electors voting on the proposed amendment vote in the affirmative, the amendment becomes part of the state constitution.

Constitutional Conventions

The state constitution may also be amended through a constitutional convention, which Connecticut last had in 1965. At least 10 years after the most recent constitutional convention, the General Assembly may, by a vote of two-thirds of the membership in each chamber (i.e., at least 24 votes in the Senate and 101 in the House), provide for the convening of a constitutional convention to amend or revise the state constitution.

Additionally, state electors must periodically be asked to vote on whether they want a constitutional convention to amend or revise the state constitution. The question will next appear on the ballot in 2030 unless the legislature convenes a convention before then (Conn. Const. Art. XIII).

Learn
More

[The Connecticut Constitution](#), Revised to January 1, 2021

“Amendments to the Connecticut Constitution Since the 1955 Revision,” OLR Report [2022-R-0275](#)

