

Ballot Question and Explanatory Text for 2024 Proposed Constitutional Amendment on Absentee Voting

By: Matthew H. Frame, Associate Legislative Attorney
Lee Hansen, Principal Legislative Analyst
August 16, 2024 | 2024-R-0145

Issue

Provide the ballot question and explanatory text for the proposed constitutional amendment that will appear on the November 2024 general election ballot.

Summary

At the November 5, 2024, general election, voters will consider a proposed amendment to the Connecticut Constitution. The proposed amendment, [RA 23-1](#) (2023), deals with absentee voting.

In order to appear on the general election ballot for consideration by voters, a proposed constitutional amendment must be approved by a (1) three-fourths majority of the membership in both chambers of the General Assembly or (2) simple majority of the membership in both chambers in two successive legislative terms ([Conn. Const. Art. XII](#)).

By law, the Office of Legislative Research must prepare a concise explanatory text describing the content and purpose of a proposed constitutional amendment that will appear on the ballot ([CGS § 2-30a](#)). The text is subject to approval by the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee – the joint standing committee of the General Assembly with cognizance over constitutional amendments.

Once approved by the GAE Committee, the secretary of the state must print and send the explanatory text, with the language of the proposed amendment, to town clerks and registrars of voters in each town in sufficient supply for public distribution. The secretary must also print the text on posters and mail each town enough so that registrars can display at least three in each polling place ([CGS § 2-30a](#)). The text is also included in (1) the voter guide the secretary prepares for a state election ([CGS § 9-4a\(b\)\(10\)](#)) and (2) absentee ballot sets ([CGS § 9-140\(d\)](#)).

If a majority of those voting on a proposed amendment approve it, the amendment becomes part of the state constitution. For more information on amending the constitution and on amendments since the 1955 revision, see OLR reports [2015-R-0240](#) and [2022-R-0275](#).

RA 23-1: RESOLUTION APPROVING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING

Ballot Question

Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to allow each voter to vote by absentee ballot?

Explanatory Text

On August 15, 2024, the GAE Committee met and approved the explanatory text that appears below.

CONTENT AND PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Under the current state constitution, qualified voters may cast an absentee vote only if they are unable to vote in person at their polling place on election day due to (1) absence from their city or town, (2) sickness or physical disability, or (3) their religious beliefs prohibiting secular activity on that day.

If this amendment is approved, the state constitution would no longer limit the reasons why absentee voting may be used. Therefore, it would expand the state legislature's authority to pass laws regarding voting by qualified voters who will not appear at their polling place on election day.

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