



State of Connecticut

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL**

REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL L. MOLGANO
ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FOURTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Testimony

In Support of House Joint Resolution Number 33
A Resolution Proposing An Amendment To The State Constitution To
Provide For Early Voting

Government Administration and Elections Committee
March 11, 2011

Senator Slossberg, Representative Morin, Senator Meyer, Representative Lesser, Senator McLachlan, Representative Hwang, and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify before you on House Joint Resolution Number 33, a resolution proposing an amendment to the state constitution to provide for early voting.

I ask the committee to please ensure such an amendment would allow early voting by absentee ballot for City or Town Clerks, Registrars of Voters, and all Election Day required municipal employees, whether they are temporary, part-time, or full-time workers. This would be an amendment to chapter 145, sec. 9-135 of the general statutes. The roles City or Town Clerks, Registrars of Voters, and all Election

Day required municipal employees perform on Election Day are demanding and essential. The present law requires such critical staff to leave their posts and vote at their home precincts oftentimes a distance away. This restriction removes personnel from their jobs on the one day their presence is most in need. Even though polls in Connecticut open at 6:00 a.m., Election Day personnel arrive early to their positions in preparation for what they know will be a very busy day.

With the present law permitting voting by absentee ballot for voters who will be travelling or are temporarily residing outside their home districts, I see no defensible reason people who have direct responsibilities in performing duties key to the election process cannot vote early by absentee ballot as well. Please pass House Joint Resolution Number 33 and allow early voting by absentee ballot for City or Town Clerks, Registrars of Voters, and all Election Day required municipal employees. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael L. Molgano". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael L. Molgano
State Representative
144th District