

To: CGA Government Administration and Elections Committee

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Denise Mizla, and I am a registrar of voters in Colchester.

I am writing concerning Bill #5024-An Act concerning Voting Rights.

I am opposing this bill for now as I feel that not enough research and preparation has gone into the realities of this bill.

First, this legislation, if passed would create an additional financial burden on municipalities already struggling with increasing costs.

Second, as to a citizen registering to vote on election day and casting a ballot that would count without any vetting of their residency would pose serious threats to the integrity of the vote count.

The laws for registering to vote in Connecticut are already very lenient as opposed to other states. Mail-in registration can be accepted 14 days before an election and in-person right up to the day before an election in many cases. I do not believe low voter turnout has anything to do with the election laws that are in force now. One can virtually register to vote without leaving their home by using the mail. One can register at motor vehicle, a local library or even a phone call to their town hall to request a voter registration card be mailed to them.

Citing an example, in the 2008 presidential election, our town used about 200 presidential ballots, and those individuals were given voter registration cards to fill out and return. After the election we received back no more than ten.

I would like to recommend that state election officials do further examination of this proposal by getting together with local election officials to look at how this would be implemented and ways to fund it.

I would also like to recommend that state election officials provide more education to the public through the media and other resources at to voter registration deadlines, dates of elections, primaries, etc. Local registrars already do this but statewide education would reach broader groups of voters. 18 years olds should be especially targeted in this message.

In conclusion, voting is a right and a privilege granted to us and we as individuals must exercise that right-no one can do it for us.

Denise Mizla

Cc:State Rep. Linda Orange