



The Hartford Votes ~ Hartford Vota Coalition

February 27, 2012

Senator Gayle S. Slossberg and Representative Russell A. Morin
Committee on Government Administration and Elections
Connecticut State Legislature
Hartford, Connecticut

Dear Representative Morin and Senator Slossberg:

On behalf of the Hartford Votes ~ Hartford Vota Coalition, I write in support of three bills that are before your committee:

- Governor's Bill No. 5024: An Act Concerning Voting Rights
- Governor's House Joint Resolution No. 2: Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for No-Excuse Absentee Voting
- Governor's Bill No. 5022: An Act Increasing Penalties for Voter Intimidation and Interference.

The mission of the Hartford Votes ~ Hartford Vota Coalition is to increase voter engagement in the city of Hartford through voter education, voter information, and voter registration. The Coalition was formed three years ago and is comprised of fourteen nonprofit and governmental organizations. We feel strongly that voting is an essential right and civic duty of all citizens. The three bills before your committee will encourage and support those who are exercising that right.

Bill No. 5024, which will allow qualified individuals to register to vote on Election Day, is especially important in a city such as Hartford where voters move often and may be mistakenly purged from the voter rolls. Election Day registration would allow voters who are in this situation to re-register and cast their ballots at their polling place, thus preserving their right to vote.

No-excuse absentee voting, as proposed in Joint Resolution No. 2, will increase voting in Hartford and other cities and towns by eliminating barriers to voting posed by such factors as long workdays and the need to care for children and other family members. By enabling voters to anticipate Election Day difficulties and secure absentee ballots, we support their desire to participate in the democratic process.

Lastly, although we in Connecticut have not experienced the types of voter intimidation and vote suppression that have occurred in other states, we want to assure that such activities do not occur here. Therefore, we support an increase in penalties for voter intimidation and interference as proposed in Bill No. 5022.

We are grateful to the Legislature and the Governor for proposing this legislation and for establishing Connecticut as a leader in voter empowerment. We urge your positive action on the three bills.

Sincerely,
Linda A. Bayer
Hartford Votes ~ Hartford Vota Coalition

A Better Way Foundation - Hartford 2000 - CT Association of Nonprofits - Achieve Hartford!
City of Hartford Registrars of Voters - Connecticut Center for a New Economy - Co-Opportunity
CT Secretary of the State - Common Cause in Connecticut - Hartford Areas Rally Together
Hartford Public Library - MetroHartford Alliance - League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford
Nancy A. Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work