



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

CGA Government Administration and Elections Committee

February 27, 2012 Public Hearing

Comments provided by: Susan Voris, Election Laws Specialist, League of Women Voters of Connecticut

Support for: HJ 2 – Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow For No-Excuse Absentee Voting.

My name is Susan Voris. I am the Election Laws Specialist for the League of Women Voters of Connecticut. As a state-wide organization with over 1800 members, the League is dedicated to improving the electoral process.

HJ 2 – Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow For No-Excuse Absentee Voting.

Referring to Section 1 of the resolution to amend Section 7 of Article Sixth of the Constitution, the League supports measures which assure that absentee ballot privileges are available to all electors - for any reason. The current laws limit the use of an absentee ballot to a handful of specific reasons and penalize those who may, in fact, benefit most from using these ballots, such as commuters, family caregivers or the parents of young children. While each of these voters may have the intent to make it to the polls, their situations can be unpredictable; under current absentee ballot rules their right to vote is denied to them. In Connecticut, the absentee ballot has been used for many years and the process is well established. The League encourages continued strong measures and strict penalties to ensure there is no undue influence or voter fraud in the use of absentee ballots.

In reference to Section 2 to amend Section 4 of Article Fourth of the Constitution and Section 3 to amend Section 9 of Article Third of the Constitution, the League supports the language changes that continue to support transparency in election reporting. We believe that the elimination of a time line for the punctual submission of election results is prudent because those time lines are covered under the state statutes. We believe the removal of these time lines is consistent with the removal of the restrictions for absentee ballots in Section 1 and gives ~~to~~ our elected representatives the option to debate under the state statutes.

The League urges the Committee to support HJ2.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.