

Dear Esteemed Committee Members,

Testimony to support HJ NO 161

I am sure we all can agree that the right to vote is a right that we should cherish as Americans and make sure that all Americans have the opportunity to do so. That being said here in Connecticut it is a hardship for some to be able to use their right to vote due to many reasons and for reasons that are not they're making. There are people who work two to three jobs and rush from one to the other and cannot always get to the poles on a Tuesday. Long lines and bad weather are inhibitors for elderly. I have lived in a state that has early vote and it was so convenient for all. It cuts down on absentee ballots since people had choices of dates to vote. In Tennessee the people who used the absentee ballots were service men and women and those living in other states (college kids) or countries. Not those residents who are traveling for a day or on vacation or those who just unable to stand in line. Early vote is much more convenient for all. Just recently, during the special election a few weeks ago, a West Hartford polling location lost its power in the public school and the school was closed for the day. The location was closed for three plus hours in the morning when it was to open and people who voted there didn't think the polling location was open because school was called off that day. No one could have foreseen that this location would have been closed on Tuesday of Election Day, but if there were early vote more than likely it would have not been a burden on the location and its citizens, as some voters would have voted already.

Points to consider are:

Elderly:

- Weather related issues would not be a factor especially for the old.
- The elderly would not need to stand on long lines.
- It would make it easy for a caregiver to set up a time to take them to the polls, especially if that caregiver has a job as well.

Those working more than one job:

- More than one day as an option.
- A choice of dates to be able to take time to vote.
- F-finding caregiver for their children while they vote.

Towns and Cities:

- Depending on the town/city, polling locations can be housed at town hall and libraries. Libraries are open on weekends and therefore would not cost the town more money to open a facility that normally would be closed on a weekend.
- Election Day Tuesday would not have the hordes of lines and make it easy for polling locations
- Long lines would be decreased.
- It would cut down on absentee ballots since people have choices of dates to vote.

Thank You,
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