

HR – 161 RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE  
CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FOR EARLY VOTING AND NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE  
VOTING

This written testimony is submitted in support of HR 151. The purpose of the bill is to the amend the State Constitution and allow for early voting and no-excuse absentee voting. I have had over 20 years' experience as a campaign worker and campaign manager and have been disappointed in the statistics showing the voter turnout in CT. Candidates work very hard to reach out to voters and get their support but turnout is low.

Currently 39 of the 50 states in the USA now have early voting. We still vote on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, just as our founding fathers dictated. At that time, we were an agrarian nation with women working in the home to raise children and care for the house. Women did not have the vote, there were no automobiles and there were slaves in many states without the right to vote or be free.

Things have changed overtime and now:

- Women have the vote
- Slaves were emancipated
- Women work outside the home
- There are single parent households
- The invention to the automobile enables both men and women to commute long distances to their employment
- There are both parents in a household working outside the home with limited time care for children and to get involved in government or to vote.

The list above is not exhaustive but provides a sense of some of the changes that occurred and why it is important that we update our regulations and make them work for voters today.

It is important that we change our regulations so that all citizens are able to fulfill their civic responsibility and vote.

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