

A Letter In Support of New Early Voting Laws in CT (HJR 161)

As a life-long resident of Connecticut and a person with a disability that prevents me from driving, I am writing in support of amending the constitution to allow for early voting in Connecticut (HJR 161).

Specifically, I support the ability to mail in a vote as well as extend the time period for which a vote can be cast in person.

The mail-in option is of particular importance to me as a non-driver. Having additional days to vote in person still requires securing transportation, either for a fee or from family or friends. As a non-driver I need to manage my resources, both financially and in terms of how often I call upon others for transportation. Therefore, I look for alternatives to the in-person option whenever I can. Early voting by mail would allow me to cast my ballot conveniently and consistently without inconveniencing someone else's busy schedule and without incurring the expense of cab service. A one-way trip of less than 3 miles away is about \$10. The price goes up significantly to have the cab wait for me, if I don't want to be waiting at the polls for a return ride. This scenario is not unique to me. The elderly, the disabled, those who cannot afford a car and those temporarily disabled by injury and not driving all face the possibility that logistics and expense may not allow them to cast a vote on the one day currently allotted for doing so.

Early voting in Connecticut, both in person and by mail, make sense for all voting demographics. Adults working demanding jobs or odd hours while juggling family responsibilities will have more opportunities to arrange to cast their vote. The disabled and the elderly will be better able to participate in the polls if they have additional days to arrange transportation and the ability to mail in their vote if leaving their home is not possible. College students, many of whom may have registered in high school but have yet to cast their first vote, will be better able to do so without having to register for an absentee ballot during each election.

A diverse community requires diversity in options to cast their votes and be heard at the polls. I support early voting in Connecticut.

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