

Dear Chairpersons Flexer, and Fox and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of HJR 161 , “ a resolution Proposing an Amendment to the state Constitution to Allow for Early Voting and No-excuse Absentee Voting.”

For the past 15 years I have served as an Assistant Registrar on Primary and Election Days at various voting polls in Stamford. The situation has always been the same, voting is heavy between 6-8AM with workers getting in line early before they go to work. Voting is light between 8AM and 5 PM with mostly elderly voters, handicapped voters or young parents. Voting becomes heavy again between 5PM and 8PM when workers are finished for the day. Often we have long lines between 7:30PM and 8PM. At times we have had to deny voters their right to vote because they arrived at 8:02PM because their train was late.

The traditional Election Day on the first Thursday of November is out- of-date. It was instituted at a time when voting was restricted to white males who owned property and often came to market on Tuesdays. That is hardly the case now.

We could institute Early Voting on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday before an election. Perhaps the town clerk’s office and the registrar’s office would be open to allow early voting. This would not incur great additional expense .

The strength of our democracy is determined by the people and and in the 21st century ,we must give voters the ample opportunities to express their choices.

I urge you to consider your constituents wishes and vote in favor of HJR161.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joan Kranz

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