

Dear Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, and distinguished members of the General Administration and Elections Committee,

I write in support of HJ 161. As the alder for New Haven's 21st ward, I know that some of my constituents would benefit from the convenience of early voting while others, who work multiple jobs and are unable to take time away from work, really need reform. That three quarters of the states provide some form of early voting demonstrates this is a nonpartisan and common sense reform, one that benefits voters of all parties, ages, and backgrounds. It also benefits our election administrators, by removing the pressure of a single election day.

In a public hearing regarding recent election issues in New Haven, the Registrar, moderators, activists and the general public all voiced support for early voting as one way to address the challenges the city has experienced. We can improve the health of our democracy and lessen the immense burden of election day on our hardworking moderators and poll workers by joining many other states in passing this reform.

I urge the committee to favorably recommend this bill to the General Assembly and to ask colleagues to provide the three quarters majority necessary for its support.

Thanks for your consideration,

Steven Winter

Alder, Ward 21, New Haven