



***GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE***
March 17, 2021

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members representing 168 towns and cities.

H.B. 5883 An Act Concerning Voting for Municipal Officers and on Local Questions

CCM opposes HB 5883.

This would bill would allow towns and cities to permit residents who 16 years old to vote for municipal officers and on local questions. This has the potential to create a two-tiered voting system both within a town or city and throughout the state. Our voting process works best when it is uniform and consistent.

The Constitution of the State of Connecticut has designated that 18 is the age by which residents may begin to participate in elections for the General Assembly and statewide office and CCM would question why the legislature would allow the option for persons at 16 years old to vote for a mayor or first selectman? Either people are responsible enough to vote or they are not and the standard applied to those who vote for a State Representative or State Senator should be the same as those who vote for local officials.

Another problem that this bill would raise, if a town or city allowed voting by residents 16 years of age, then municipality would be required to provide multiple ballots when there are local officials and questions on the same ballot as people running for the General Assembly or statewide office. Creating multiple ballots for different tired voters is creating the potential for a problem that currently does not exist.

If you have any questions, please contact Randy Collins, Advocacy Manager of CCM at rcollins@ccm-ct.org or (860) 707-6446.