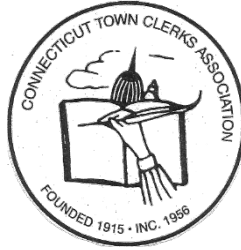


# Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.

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## Written Testimony

Jeffrey Dunkerton, Westport Town Clerk

Connecticut Town Clerks Association – Legislative Committee

## **HB 5883, AN ACT CONCERNING VOTING FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND ON LOCAL QUESTIONS**

Government Administration & Elections Committee

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

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Good afternoon Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, Senator Sampson, Representative Mastrofrancesco, and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee. My name is Jeffrey Dunkerton, and I am the Westport Town Clerk and a member of the Legislative Committee for the Connecticut Town Clerks Association. Thank you for affording me the opportunity to submit this testimony in regard to **HB 5883, AN ACT CONCERNING VOTING FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND ON LOCAL QUESTIONS**.

The Connecticut Town Clerks Association (CTCA) feels the voting age needs to be consistent for all elective events. As you are aware, town clerks play a large role in the election process. In addition to administering the absentee ballot process and registering voters, we field numerous phone calls regarding elections year-round and especially the weeks leading up to an elective event. This past election year was no exception with town clerks across the state fielding hundreds and hundreds of election related inquiries.

The election process for the experienced, adult voter can be complicated to comprehend. Understanding the difference between municipal elections, primaries, party affiliation and referendums may be overwhelming for many. An inexperienced, new voter may experience even greater difficulty grasping all of the nuances of the elective process much less adding their inability to vote in state and federal elections.

CTCA appreciates the bill's merit to encourage the development of voting at an early age; however, we have concerns that the unintended consequence could lead to voter confusion or apathy. Not only would such be a loss to the young voter, but to the elective process of Connecticut.

Voting is a Constitutional right, one that should be easily understood and effectuated. CTCA believes to avoid unnecessary confusion from election to election that voting should be consistent. Thank you for the opportunity to present our written testimony.