

Ballot Question and Explanatory Text for 2022 Proposed Constitutional Amendment on Early Voting

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September 14, 2022 | 2022-R-0157

Issue

Provide the ballot question and explanatory text for the proposed constitutional amendment that will appear on the November 2022 general election ballot.

Summary

At the November 8, 2022, general election, voters will consider a proposed amendment to the Connecticut Constitution. The proposed amendment, [H.J. 59](#) (2021), deals with in-person, early voting.

In order to appear on the general election ballot for consideration by voters, a proposed constitutional amendment must be approved by a (1) three-fourths majority of the membership in both chambers of the General Assembly or (2) simple majority of the membership in both chambers in two successive legislative terms ([Conn. Const. Art. XII](#)).

By law, the Office of Legislative Research must prepare a concise explanatory text describing the content and purpose of a proposed constitutional amendment that will appear on the ballot ([CGS § 2-30a](#)). The text is subject to approval by the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee—the joint standing committee of the General Assembly with cognizance over constitutional amendments.

Once approved by the GAE Committee, the secretary of the state must print and send the explanatory text, with the language of the proposed amendment, to town clerks and registrars of voters in each town in sufficient supply for public distribution. The secretary must also print the text on posters and mail each town enough so that registrars can display at least three in each polling place ([CGS § 2-30a](#)). The text is also included in (1) the voter guide the secretary prepares for a state election ([CGS § 9-4a\(b\)\(10\)](#)) and (2) absentee ballot sets ([CGS § 9-140\(d\)](#)).

If a majority of those voting on a proposed amendment approve it, the amendment becomes part of the state constitution. For more information on amending the constitution and on amendments since the 1955 revision, see OLR reports [2015-R-0240](#) and [2019-R-0116](#).

H.J.R. 59: Resolution Approving an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow for Early Voting

Ballot Question

Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to provide for early voting?

Explanatory Text

On August 31, 2022, the GAE Committee met and approved the explanatory text that appears below.

CONTENT AND PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Currently, the Connecticut Constitution does not permit in-person, early voting. If this amendment is approved, it would allow the General Assembly to pass legislation establishing in-person voting before the day of an election.

Additionally, approval of the amendment would eliminate the constitutional requirement that certain copies of election results, when sent to the Secretary of the State, be under seal. It would not change the statutory requirement that these copies be sent under seal.

Further Explanation

The state constitution contains several provisions about the time, place, and manner of elections in Connecticut. These provisions currently require voters to cast their ballots at their polling place on the day of an election unless they qualify to vote by absentee ballot. Because these are constitutional requirements, the General Assembly cannot pass legislation establishing a form of voting that conflicts with them.

If this amendment is approved, it would specifically allow the General Assembly to pass legislation establishing in-person, early voting. This authority would apply both to choosing candidates for office and to voting on referendum questions at an election. Relatedly, the amendment would eliminate a requirement that town election officials receive the votes at elections for state officers and state legislators only on the day of the election.

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