Here in CT, we have some of the most restrictive voting laws in the nation! No really! CT Voters can only vote for 14 hours during 1 day of the year. AND there are only 3 reasons that a voter can vote by absentee: out of town all of those 14 hours, active-duty military, illness. In a state that is mostly progressive in so many ways, this level of inaccessibility to the ballot leaves many of our fellow CT voters unable to vote.

Imagine the student who lives in Hartford, works in East Hartford, and attends classes at UConn in W Hartford. To get from E Hartford to W Hartford, this student does indeed pass through Hartford during those 14 hours, even if only on the interstate! That student is not eligible to vote by absentee by our current laws. In a time when so many states in the nation are seeking to limit access to the ballot box, how is it possible that CT legislators are doing the same! Many of our neighbors work two or more jobs or take care of elderly family members and are just not able to vote on that one day in those 14 hours. We all know that our representative democracy works best when all voices are heard! We need Early Voting and No excuse Absentee Balloting!

This is exactly why we are fighting to expand voting rights here in CT. In 1818, the folks who wrote our constitution wrote that restrictive language into our state constitution. To change our constitution is complicated and takes deliberative action on the part of the legislature and the electorate. So, here is what needs to happen to expand voter access and thus, voter participation.

First, the legislature needs to vote on the bills to allow a Constitutional Amendment bill to be put on the ballot for us voters to decide if we want early voting or no excuse absentee voting. Right now, we have 2 bills that have passed the state house that need the Senate leadership to call for a vote.

Those bil[ls are:](https://www.cga.ct.gov/searchresults.asp?cx=005177121039084408563%3Ahs1zq3ague8&ie=UTF-8&cof=FORID%3A10&q=HJ+58+2021&submission=%EF%80%82" \t "_blank)

[HJ58: RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING.](https://www.cga.ct.gov/searchresults.asp?cx=005177121039084408563%3Ahs1zq3ague8&ie=UTF-8&cof=FORID%3A10&q=HJ+58+2021&submission=%EF%80%82" \t "_blank)

and

[HJ59:RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FOR EARLY VOTING.](https://www.cga.ct.gov/searchresults.asp?cx=005177121039084408563%3Ahs1zq3ague8&ie=UTF-8&cof=FORID%3A10&q=HJ+59+2021&submission=%EF%80%82)

We need every CT Voter who cares about voting rights to contact Senate leadership and insist that they call these bills immediately! This session ends in 2 weeks! For us to begin to have the right to vote early or vote by absentee these bills must get voted on and passed by the state Senate!

Sample Scripts:

**Feel free to adapt the samples below and include your name and town:**

* I/my Mother was one of 659,000 voters who voted by **absentee ballot**“because of fear of COVID” in November 2020. I want all voters to have this opportunity in future elections without an excuse. Please pass **HJ 58** without delay so we the voters can make the final decision.
* My work/school schedules are unpredictable. I want to vote in-person whenever possible. Make it easier to **vote in-person before Election Day**. Pass **HJ 59** “Early Voting” so working folks and students have that choice.

Contact info for Senate Leadership:

**E-mail**

Sen Martin Looney, President Pro Tempore:

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| --- |
| [Martin.Looney@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Martin.Looney@cga.ct.gov) |

Sen Bob Duff, Senate Majority Leader :

|  |
| --- |
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**Call:**

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Thanks for your help!

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