

Honorable Minority Leader Themis Klarides and members all,

I am submitting this information to you regarding increased access to mail in ballots for the upcoming election and to state my concerns with moving forward in allowing increased absentee ballots. Before the words Coronavirus or COVID-19 graced the pages of every news media outlet and social media platform, voter fraud using absentee ballots had been documented.

- ◆ An article in the New York Post dated July 14th, 2017 titled "The fraud that Democrats refuse to see" covers the Presidential Advisory Commission of Election Integrity. Senator Bernie Sanders of VT claims the sole purpose of the commission is to propagate a myth and give encouragement to Republican governors and state legislators to increase voter suppression. The Brennan Center for Justice's Michael Waldmann claims the President set up a probe of an imaginary threat. Chris Carson of the League of Women Voters states the commission will undermine our elections by spreading falsehoods. Rep. Raul Grijalva claims someone is more likely to have been struck by lightning than to have committed voter fraud, and that voter fraud is a non-issue in our country.
 - Yet in May 2016, CBS2 LA identified 265 dead voters in Southern California.
 - The Heritage Foundation has conducted a survey since 2000 that has at least 742 criminal vote-fraud convictions.
 - North Carolina announced in 2014 that 13,316 dead voters were registered, and 81 had recently voted. In addition, 35,750 North Carolinians were also registered to vote in other states, and 765 voted in multiple states.
 - South Carolina's AG concluded in 2012 that 953 people were deceased at the time of their participation in recent elections.
 - The Public Interest Legal Foundation recently discovered that Virginia removed 5,556 non-citizens from its voter rolls between 2011 and May of 2016. Among these non-citizens, 1,852 had cast a total of 7,474 illegal ballots across multiple elections.
 - Yet Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe vetoed a bill in February of 2016 that would have required probes of elections in which the number of ballots cast exceeded the number of voters eligible to cast them.

In my collection of articles pertaining to voter fraud, a West Virginia mail carrier is facing federal charges from the Department of Justice for alleged attempted election fraud for altering the Mail-In Absentee request forms in various ways.

In 2004, Jerry Nadler asserted that paper ballots are susceptible to fraud.

In Wisconsin, 1,600 absentee ballots for the April 7th presidential primary were never delivered and were instead found in tubs in a US Postal Service facility.

In Oregon, 10 voters plead guilty to election fraud in the 2016 election, including multiple instances of voting in multiple states, which is a felony but were reduced to a violation. There were 56 cases of possible voter fraud forwarded by the Secretary of State's office in September of 2017.

Former mayor of Eatonville Florida was found guilty of voting fraud and election violations.

An award-winning Michigan official, city clerk Sherikia Hawkins, forged records and falsified marked absentee ballots as invalid. She now faces six felony charges for her crimes.

Who can forget Broward county elections supervisor Brenda Snipes, who approved the destruction of ballots in 2017 before they were properly reviewed after suspicions of irregularities?

In Palm Beach Florida, a county commissioner and a state house member helped people fill out their mail-in ballots. The article, from the Palm Beach Post, state that “both democrats running in the August primary, took advantage of gaping holes in Florida’s vote by mail laws to pressure ad cajole voters in their living rooms.

In New Jersey, four council members committed a litany of crimes, from bundling ballots, to collecting ballots and handing them in, possessing ballots that did not belong to one member and were not completed or sealed until they were turned in, all were completed and sealed.

Also in New Jersey, republicans received ballots with Democrat candidates instead of the Republican candidates.

I could go on, but for the sake of time, I will leave you with this.

Absentee ballots are used for those who are unable to vote for the following reasons. From SOTS own website:

Can I vote absentee?

Connecticut has strict laws regarding who can vote absentee.

- ◆ Are you an active member of the armed forces of the United States?
- ◆ Will you be out of town during all the hours of voting on Election Day?
- ◆ Does illness prevent you from voting in person on Election Day?
- ◆ Do your religious beliefs prevent you from performing secular activities like voting on Election Day?
- ◆ Will you be performing duties as an election official at a polling place other than your own during all the hours of voting on Election Day?
- ◆ Do you have a physical disability that prevents you from voting in person on Election Day?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, you are eligible to vote absentee.

Using mail in ballots on a large scale impacts the chain of custody. Many of us joke about the lack of reliability with the postal service regarding regular mail, magazines and bill payments. Why would we want to add another variable to the chain of custody equation?

In person voting guarantees a person goes to cast their vote.

Mail in ballots do not have the same assurance, and instead, the ballot can be received by someone other than who it belongs to, can be returned and illegally counted, can get lost in the mail or can be changed, all as outlined above.

If you truly care about protecting the legitimacy of our constitutionally protected elections, do not pass this measure. But if your only goal is to ensure that the Democrats win by any means necessary, that will be proven if you vote in favor of this measure.

Erin Domenech
Danbury, CT