

We support the changes that will allow ALL registered voters the option to use an ABSENTEE BALLOT for the August 11th Primary Election AND the November 3rd Presidential Election. Many voters like us, ages 72 and 74, fear going to our polling place in person because standing in long lines and mingling with the public could raise our risk of COVID-19 infection. We are gratified to see the new application allows us to request to vote absentee because of COVID-19.

We may still be confined to our homes in November when we experience a second wave of COVID. It enrages us that four CT Republican first and second district candidates for U.S. Congress have filed a lawsuit to rescind this provision for the primary and block a similar provision for the November general election. Their lawsuit claims that widespread absentee voting threatens election integrity by falsely claiming that vote-by-mail opens the door to voter fraud or that ballot collection boxes are intrinsically unsafe. But these are bogus claims, partisan self-interest masquerading as patriotism. Republican lawmakers actually fear that voting by mail will bring more people into the election process, a dynamic that typically tips the scale in favor of Democrats.

The virus does not take play politics, and our public officials should not either. Exercising our constitutional right to vote safely and without fear is not a partisan issue. It is a public health issue.

Rhonda and Jim Heisler

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