

July 20, 2020

Dear Distinguished Members of the GAE Committee:

I am writing to ask you to pass LCO #3576 and permit voters to vote by absentee ballot during the entire pandemic. Voters should not have to choose between protecting their health and exercising their right to vote.

42 states offer some form of non-election-day voting, including Texas, Georgia, and Florida so voters may exercise this critical right at times when at the very least polling places will be less crowded and more able to manage social distancing. Florida and Georgia offer both vote by mail AND early voting.

It's frankly odd and embarrassing Connecticut lags behind these states when it comes to voting rights. We are better than this.

In addition to concerning yourselves with the vulnerable populations who will have to think twice before coming out this Election Day to exercise their constitutionally protected right to vote, please think also of the numerous poll workers, most of whom volunteer their time so democracy may live to see another year, and who, in my experience, tend to be older and so by definition more vulnerable. Why would you put them in harm's way?

It's a profound responsibility to vote. I take it seriously. It is a profound responsibility to ensure and protect our right to vote. Please take it seriously by making it easier, not more difficult. This year, especially, voting absentee without restrictions should be available.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth Sherman  
Greenwich, CT

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341 SOUND BEACH AVENUE  
SUITE B  
OLD GREENWICH, CT 06870

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GREENWICH (HQ)  
+1.203.698.2512

LOS ANGELES  
+1.323.617.5711

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RUTH@RUTHSHERMAN.COM  
RUTHSHERMAN.COM

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