



Legislative Testimony

765 Asylum Avenue, First Floor
Hartford, CT 06105

860-523-9146

www.acluct.org

Written Testimony Supporting House Bill 5422, An Act Concerning Voting Rights and Primary Day Elector Registration

Senator McLachlan, Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

My name is Kaley Lentini, and I am legislative counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am here to testify in support of House Bill 5422, An Act Concerning Voting Rights and Primary Day Elector Registration.

The right to vote is a fundamental part of America's democracy, and allowing more people to vote strengthens our democracy. We support liberty, justice, and equality for all, including equal access to the ballot box. By providing more people with the chance to make their voices heard, Election Day registration upholds these critical democratic principles. This bill would allow people in Connecticut to both register to vote and enroll in a political party that is holding a primary on a primary day.

Allowing people to register to vote on the day of an election has proven to increase voter turnout. Increasing the number of voters is particularly important in primary elections because there are fewer voters participating than in other elections. Allowing people to register to vote on the day of primary elections may also decrease the number of people using Election Day registration for regular elections.

Passing this bill would put Connecticut in line with other states that have strengthened their voter registration laws. Ten states, including the nearby Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, allow Election Day registration on primary days.

I encourage this committee to support House Bill 5422 to strengthen our democracy.