

2024
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BALLOT QUESTION

1. “Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to allow each voter to vote by absentee ballot?”

CONTENT AND PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Under the current state constitution, qualified voters may cast an absentee vote only if they are unable to vote in person at their polling place on election day due to (1) absence from their city or town, (2) sickness or physical disability, or (3) their religious beliefs prohibiting secular activity on that day.

If this amendment is approved, the state constitution would no longer limit the reasons why absentee voting may be used. Therefore, it would expand the state legislature’s authority to pass laws regarding voting by qualified voters who will not appear at their polling place on election day.

The preceding explanatory text was prepared by the nonpartisan Office of Legislative Research subject to approval by the General Assembly’s joint standing Committee on Government Administration and Elections in accordance with Section 2-30a of the Connecticut General Statutes.

TEXT OF THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

(As set forth in H.J.R. No. 1 in 2023)

Section 1. That the following be proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the State, which, when approved and adopted in the manner provided by the Constitution, shall, to all intents and purposes, become a part thereof:

Section 7 of article sixth of the Constitution is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 7. The general assembly may provide by law for voting in the choice of any officer to be elected or upon any question to be voted on at an election by qualified voters of the state who [are unable to] will not appear at the polling place on the day of election_ [because of absence from the city or town of which they are inhabitants or because of sickness or physical disability or because the tenets of their religion forbid secular activity.]

Adopted May 30, 2023

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROCESS

In accordance with Article Sixth of the amendments to the Connecticut State Constitution, this proposed amendment was approved by the General Assembly and is to be voted upon by the electors of each town at the state election on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

If a majority of the electors voting on the proposed amendment approve it, the amendment will become part of the state constitution.