



Connecticut 2021 Voting Rights Summary

Congratulations, your voice as a voting freedoms champion has once again been heard!

Connecticut has taken a major step forward for voting rights by passing the elements of Senate Bill 5 as part of the “budget implementer.”

The historic legislation will expand voting rights by implementing **expanded automatic voter registration, restoring voting freedom for people on parole, and more, and comes on the heels of the passage of resolutions that bring Connecticut one step closer to allowing for early voting and no-excuse absentee ballots.**

This happened because the citizens of Connecticut raised their voices and were heard—and due to public support of Connecticut Citizen Action Group’s commitment to expanding voting freedoms. Collectively, Connecticut voters generated thousands of emails, phone calls, social media posts throughout, and significantly in the closing days of the 2021 legislative session. Hundreds of people spoke up at legislative public hearings in support of voting reforms. **Thank you!**

In addition to automatic voter registration (AVR) and restoring voting freedom for people on parole, the **legislation passed this year:**

- Requires employers to give an employee two hours of unpaid time off for state elections and certain special elections if he or she requests it in advance
- Allows people to apply to the secretary of the state for an absentee ballot using an online system, which the secretary must establish and maintain
- Makes permanent the use of drop boxes for returning absentee ballots
- Requires the secretary of the state to provide electors who are unable to appear at their polling place because of a visual impairment with an electronic absentee ballot
- Requires the secretary of the state to implement an e-signature system for most elections-related forms and applications
- Specifies that electors may receive voting assistance in voting booths at designated EDR locations

In addition to these momentous wins, the legislature passed SB 753 ending prison gerrymandering making Connecticut the 11th state to end prison gerrymandering just in time for the once-in-a-decade state redistricting process; and S.B. No. 761 An Act Permitting the Use of Citizens’ Election Program Grant Funds to Offset a Participating Candidate’s Child Care Costs!

The 2021 regular and special legislative sessions were truly historic for voting freedoms. **This is your victory.**

These are just a few highlights. For more information on these or other issues, please visit our website, [join our email list](#) to be kept updated, or contact:

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