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<https://www.theday.com/letters/20230401/its-time-to-step-up-to-the-plate/>

## It's Time to Step Up to the Plate

It's opening weekend! Bombers, Sox, and that other team from NY - whichever uniform you wear, we can all agree opening day is full of promise and opportunity. I've got high hopes.

But those hopes don't get me to first base without our team delivering. And when it comes to improving our democracy, that means our state lawmakers doing their part.

Back in November, a sizable bipartisan majority of Connecticut's voters delivered a clear mandate to state lawmakers and Governor Lamont: Expand access to voting for all. Enact a fair, safe, and workable early voting system.

Three bills made it through the committee process, but we need the Governor and legislators to step up and fulfill their commitment to implement early voting with adequate funding.

Like you, I entered the voting booth last year having studied the ballot, learned facts, and recognized the stakes. I read the referendum question. When I considered how I would vote, I envisioned a future strolling into my local polling station to vote on a day that worked for my me and my neighbors - regardless of their age, their mobility, or how they make ends meet.. With that vision in mind, I voted YES.

That YES made certain Connecticut was no longer grouped with Alabama and Mississippi as it relates to expanded access to voting. It was a YES for democracy. A YES for accessibility. A YES for opportunity for all voters; caretakers, commuters, frontline workers, and seniors to make their voices heard.

When 60% of voters cast that yes vote - they did it understanding that the state would live up to its end of the bargain: fund our election system to make it work, to make it secure, and to make it fair.

Our leaders consistently voice support for early voting and have committed to do everything they can to expand peoples' access to voting. Just last October, Governor Lamont told the [New London Day Editorial Board](#) that he and, now, Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas, wanted to do everything they could to expand people's opportunity to vote.

I believed the Governor then, and I want to believe him now when he reiterated that commitment on WNPR's Where We Live this past week. But like a runner rounding third, we know we can only count the run when we take a look at the scoreboard and see a state budget that meets the needs of our elections.

In the spirit of Opening Weekend, let's ask our lawmakers to channel their inner Bambino. They have their chance to step up, call their shot and knock this out of the park.

Implement the early voting system that voters came out to support in record numbers. Fully fund our election system so that Connecticut can live up to the promise of early voting. All voters should have equal access to the ballot box - regardless where we live or whether your supporting the Sox, the Yankees, or gosh, what is the name of that team in Queens?

Proper resources for early voting and mandating multiple polling locations for our largest cities will ensure all Connecticut residents have equal access to the ballot box. It will guarantee that our lawmakers deliver on the promise of fairness, equity, and democracy - it matters to all of us.

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