

The Connecticut General Assembly



Dec. 7, 2023

The Honorable Bryan Steil
Chairman of the Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6157

Via electronic mail

Dear Representative Steil:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the alarming events in Connecticut surrounding the recent mayoral primary in Bridgeport. A new Democrat primary election has been ordered due to this ballot box tampering and has been scheduled for Jan. 23, 2024.

As way of background, this is not the first time that Bridgeport has made headlines for alleged ballot fraud¹. In 2019, questions about the use of absentee ballots in Bridgeport arose and the State Election Enforcement Commission referred three people, including two city employees, for criminal charges.

And sadly, this is not limited to Bridgeport. In Stamford, a Democrat was convicted of forging signatures on multiple absentee ballot applications². He was sentenced to probation but is appealing his conviction. These incidents, as well as others across the country, bring the security of absentee ballot boxes and other aspects of our elections into question. The integrity of the electoral process demands that it be free of tampering so that voters have faith in the system; incidents like these only add to the suspicions of corruption.

As Ranking Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, we have continually voiced grave concerns about the potential for fraud in our elections, engaging in lengthy debates and offering countless amendments. Despite offering commonsense solutions and legislation to improve the security of the process, such as requiring an ID to cast a ballot, verifying signatures on ballots, or placing the ballot drop boxes in a place where they can be continually monitored, the Democrat majority in the House and Senate have failed to act.

The integrity of our elections is of paramount importance to the Republican members of the GAE Committee. Senate and House Republicans have also worked tirelessly to implement protections that would maintain the integrity of our voting system.

¹ <https://www.ctinsider.com/politics/article/bridgeport-ct-2019-absentee-ballot-investigation-18336339.php>

² <https://www.stamfordadvocate.com/news/article/mallozzi-stamford-absentee-ballot-fraud-appeal-18082078.php>

Because Democrats hold majorities in both chambers, they control the agenda and our many bill proposals regarding election integrity provisions are never brought up. Our alternative is to use the amendment process.

Here are just some of the recent attempts we've made from recent sessions. Each and every one was voted down by Democrats on party lines:

- 2023: LCO 10314 on Special Session resolution – Temporarily eliminate the use of AB drop boxes statewide
- 2023: LCO 10289 on Special Session resolution – Temporarily eliminate the use of AB drop boxes in Bridgeport
- 2023: LCO 10316 on Special Session resolution – Increased penalty for violating AB statutes to a mandatory minimum 6-month period of incarceration
- 2023: Amendment offered in Committee on S.B. 1057 – Expansion of mandatory affidavit on ABs
- 2023: Amendment offered in Committee on S.B. 1057 – Mandatory photo ID
- 2023: Amendment offered in Committee on S.B. 1057 – No mailing unsolicited AB Applications by Secretary of the State
- 2022: LCO 3561 on H.B. 5262 – No mailing unsolicited AB Applications by SOTS
- 2022: LCO 3557 on H.B. 5262 – Mandated Voter ID
- 2022: LCO 3592 on H.B. 5262 – Rolls back COVID-19 rules on voting by AB
- 2021: LCO 8915 on H.B. 6205 – No mailing unsolicited AB Applications by SOTS
- 2021: LCO 8934 on H.B. 6205 – Rolls back COVID-19 rules on voting by AB
- 2021: LCO 8258 on H.J. 58 – Mandatory photo ID
- 2021: LCO 7738 on H.J. 58 – Mandatory signature verification

We wish we could be optimistic that our colleagues across the aisle will now join us in our pursuit to secure Connecticut's elections as the issue has reached critical mass, but history suggests otherwise.

In closing, here are three links worth visiting to get a good handle on where things are in Connecticut regarding the battle for election integrity.

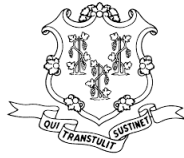
First, Sen. Sampson's remarks/amendments during special session immediately following the Bridgeport video: <https://youtu.be/-MNz7xLwWII>

Second, Rep. Mastrofrancesco's op-ed: <https://www.cthousegop.com/mastrofrancesco/op-ed-the-alleged-honor-system/>

Finally, a recent column written by Sen. Sampson entitled "Yes, Elections DO have consequences": <https://ctsenaterepublicans.com/2023/12/latest-op-ed-yes-elections-do-have-consequences-december-2023/>

We appreciate your offer to assist and will continue to keep you apprised of the Bridgeport investigation – so far, no charges have been filed despite overwhelming evidence of ballot stuffing.

The Connecticut General Assembly



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Sampson".

Senator Rob Sampson
Deputy Senate Minority Leader and Ranking Member of Government Administration & Elections

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gale Mastrofrancesco".

Representative Gale Mastrofrancesco
House Ranking Member of Government Administration & Elections