General Assembly

Committee Bill No. 5883

January Session, 2021

LCO No. **4894**

04894HB05883GAE

Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING VOTING FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND ON LOCAL QUESTIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1   Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Any municipality may, by
2   ordinance, permit bona fide residents of such municipality who have
3   attained the age of sixteen years, but who have not attained the age of
4   eighteen years, to vote (1) at any regular or special municipal election
5   for only the officers of such municipality or at any primary for only the
6   nomination of candidates for such officers, and (2) at any referendum
7   for any question or proposal of only such municipality.

8   (b) In the case of any election or primary described in subdivision (1)
9   of subsection (a) of this section and any referendum described in
10   subdivision (2) of said subsection, the provisions of title 9 of the general
11   statutes relating to the conduct of and voting at any such election,
12   primary or referendum by electors, including, but not limited to,
13   admission to voting privileges and inclusion on registry and enrollment
14   lists, voting by absentee ballot and signature of petitions, shall apply
15   equally to the conduct of and voting at any such election, primary or

16 referendum by minor municipal voters, as described in said subsection
17 and defined in section 9-1 of the general statutes, as amended by this
18 act.

19 (c) The registrars of voters of any municipality described in
20 subsection (a) of this section shall ensure that, in the case of any election
21 or primary described in subdivision (1) of said subsection and any
22 referendum described in subdivision (2) of said subsection, the ballot
23 used by minor municipal voters at any such election, primary or
24 referendum only permits voting in accordance with said subsection.

25 Sec. 2. Section 9-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the following
26 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

27 Except as otherwise provided, the following terms, as used in this
28 title and sections 3-124, 7-5, 7-6, 7-7, 7-17, 7-20, 7-39, 7-157, 7-214, 7-275,
29 7-295, 7-343, 7-407, 8-1, 8-5, 8-19, 10-219, 11-36, 13a-11, 30-10, 30-11, 45a-
30 18, 45a-19 and 51-95 have the following meanings:

31 (a) "Ballot" means paper or other material containing the names of the
32 candidates or a statement of a proposed constitutional amendment or
33 other question or proposition to be voted on;

34 (b) "Board for admission of electors" means the board as composed
35 under subsection (a) of section 9-15a;

36 (c) "Clerical error" means any error in the registry list or enrollment
37 list due to a mistake or an omission on the part of the printer or a mistake
38 or omission made by the registrars or their assistants;

39 (d) "Election" means any **[**electors'**]** meeting at which the electors <u>and,</u>
40 <u>when permitted by ordinance adopted pursuant to section 1 of this act,</u>
41 <u>minor municipal voters</u> choose public officials by use of voting
42 tabulators or by paper ballots as provided in section 9-272;

43 (e) "Elector" means any person possessing the qualifications
44 prescribed by the Constitution and duly admitted to, and entitled to
45 exercise, the privileges of an elector in a town;

46   (f) Repealed by P.A. 77-298, S. 14;

47   (g) "Municipal clerk" means the clerk of a municipality;

48   (h) "Municipal election" means the regularly recurring election held
49   in a municipality at which the electors <u>and, when permitted by</u>
50   <u>ordinance adopted pursuant to section 1 of this act, minor municipal</u>
51   <u>voters</u> of the municipality choose public officials of such municipality;

52   (i) "Municipality" means any city, borough or town within the state;

53   (j) "Official ballot" means the official ballot to be used at an election,
54   or the official ballot to be used thereat in accordance with the provisions
55   of section 9-272;

56   (k) "Population" means the population according to the last-
57   completed United States census;

58   (l) "Presidential electors" means persons elected to cast their ballots
59   for President and Vice President of the United States;

60   (m) "Print" means methods of duplication of words by mechanical
61   process, but shall not include typewriting;

62   (n) "Referendum" means (1) a question or proposal which is
63   submitted to a vote of the electors, **[or]** voters <u>or, when permitted by</u>
64   <u>ordinance adopted pursuant to section 1 of this act, minor municipal</u>
65   <u>voters</u> of a municipality at any regular or special state or municipal
66   election, as defined in this section, (2) a question or proposal which is
67   submitted to a vote of the electors, **[or]** voters <u>or, when permitted by</u>
68   <u>ordinance adopted pursuant to section 1 of this act, minor municipal</u>
69   <u>voters</u>, as the case may be, of a municipality at a meeting of such
70   electors, **[or]** voters <u>or minor municipal voters</u>, which meeting is not an
71   election, as defined in subsection (d) of this section, and is not a town
72   meeting, or (3) a question or proposal which is submitted to a vote of
73   the electors, **[or]** voters <u>or, when permitted by ordinance adopted</u>
74   <u>pursuant to section 1 of this act, minor municipal voters</u>, as the case may
75   be, of a municipality at a meeting of such electors, **[or]** voters <u>or minor</u>

76 municipal voters pursuant to section 7-7 or pursuant to charter or
77 special act;

78 (o) "Regular election" means any state or municipal election;

79 (p) "Registrars" means the registrars of voters of the municipality;

80 (q) "Registry list" means the list of electors of any municipality
81 certified by the registrars;

82 (r) "Special election" means any election not a regular election;

83 (s) "State election" means the election held in the state on the first
84 Tuesday after the first Monday in November in the even-numbered
85 years in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of
86 Connecticut;

87 (t) "State officers" means the Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
88 Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller and Attorney General;

89 (u) "Voter" means a person qualified to vote at town and district
90 meetings under the provisions of section 7-6 and includes, when
91 permitted by ordinance adopted pursuant to section 1 of this act, a
92 minor municipal voter;

93 (v) "Voting district" means any municipality, or any political
94 subdivision thereof, having not more than one polling place in a regular
95 election;

96 (w) "Voting tabulator" means a machine, including, but not limited
97 to, a device which operates by electronic means, for the registering and
98 recording of votes cast at elections, primaries and referenda;

99 (x) "Write-in ballot" means a vote cast for any person whose name
100 does not appear on the official ballot as a candidate for the office for
101 which the person's name is written in;

102 (y) "The last session for admission of electors prior to an election"
103 means the day which is the seventh day prior to an election; and

104   (z) "Minor municipal voter" means any person qualified, under the
105   provisions of section 1 of this act, to vote (1) at any regular or special
106   municipal election for only the officers of such municipality or at any
107   primary for only the nomination of candidates for such officers, and (2)
108   at any referendum for any question or proposal of only such
109   municipality.

110   Sec. 3. Section 9-372 of the general statutes is repealed and the
111   following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

112   The following terms, as used in this chapter, chapter 157 and sections
113   9-51 to 9-67, inclusive, 9-169e, 9-217, 9-236 and 9-361, shall have the
114   following meanings:

115   (1) "Caucus" means any meeting, at a designated hour and place, or
116   at designated hours and places, of the enrolled members of a political
117   party within a municipality or political subdivision thereof for the
118   purpose of selecting party-endorsed candidates for a primary to be held
119   by such party or for the purpose of transacting other business of such
120   party;

121   (2) "Convention" means a meeting of delegates of a political party
122   held for the purpose of designating the candidate or candidates to be
123   endorsed by such party in a primary of such party for state or district
124   office or for the purpose of transacting other business of such party;

125   (3) "District" means any geographic portion of the state which crosses
126   the boundary or boundaries between two or more towns;

127   (4) "District office" means an elective office for which only the electors
128   in a district, as defined in subdivision (3) of this section, may vote;

129   (5) "Major party" means (A) a political party or organization whose
130   candidate for Governor at the last-preceding election for Governor
131   received, under the designation of that political party or organization,
132   at least twenty per cent of the whole number of votes cast for all
133   candidates for Governor, or (B) a political party having, at the last-
134   preceding election for Governor, a number of enrolled members on the

135   active registry list equal to at least twenty per cent of the total number
136   of enrolled members of all political parties on the active registry list in
137   the state;

138   (6) "Minor party" means a political party or organization which is not
139   a major party and whose candidate for the office in question received at
140   the last-preceding regular election for such office, under the designation
141   of that political party or organization, at least one per cent of the whole
142   number of votes cast for all candidates for such office at such election;

143   (7) "Municipal office" means an elective office for which only the
144   electors and, when permitted by ordinance adopted pursuant to section
145   1 of this act, minor municipal voters, as defined in section 9-1, as
146   amended by this act, of a single town, city, borough, or political
147   subdivision, as defined in subdivision (10) of this section, may vote,
148   including the office of justice of the peace;

149   (8) "Party designation committee" means an organization, composed
150   of at least twenty-five members who are electors, which has, on or after
151   November 4, 1981, reserved a party designation with the Secretary of
152   the State pursuant to the provisions of this chapter;

153   (9) "Party-endorsed candidate" means (A) in the case of a candidate
154   for state or district office, a person endorsed by the convention of a
155   political party as a candidate in a primary to be held by such party, and
156   (B) in the case of a candidate for municipal office or for member of a
157   town committee, a person endorsed by the town committee, caucus or
158   convention, as the case may be, of a political party as a candidate in a
159   primary to be held by such party;

160   (10) "Political subdivision" means any voting district or combination
161   of voting districts constituting a part of a municipality;

162   (11) "Primary" means a meeting of (A) the enrolled members of a
163   political party and, when applicable under section 9-431, unaffiliated
164   electors, held during consecutive hours at which such members or
165   electors may, without assembling at the same hour, vote by secret ballot

166 for candidates for nomination to office or for town committee members,
167 and (B) when permitted by ordinance adopted pursuant to section 1 of
168 this act, minor municipal voters held during consecutive hours at which
169 such minor municipal voters may, without assembling at the same hour,
170 vote by secret ballot for candidates for nomination to municipal office
171 or for town committee members;

172   (12) "Registrar" means the registrar of voters in a municipality who is
173 enrolled with the political party holding a primary and, in each
174 municipality where there are different registrars for different voting
175 districts, means the registrar so enrolled in the voting district in which,
176 at the last-preceding regular election, the presiding officer for the
177 purpose of declaring the result of the vote of the whole municipality was
178 moderator;

179   (13) "Slate" means a group of candidates for nomination by a political
180 party to the office of justice of the peace of a town, which group numbers
181 at least a bare majority of the number of justices of the peace to be
182 nominated by such party for such town;

183   (14) "State office" means any office for which all the electors of the
184 state may vote and includes the office of Governor, Lieutenant
185 Governor, Secretary, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General and
186 senator in Congress, but does not include the office of elector of
187 President and Vice-President of the United States;

188   (15) "Votes cast for the same office at the last-preceding election" or
189 "votes cast for all candidates for such office at the last-preceding
190 election" means, in the case of multiple openings for the same office, the
191 total number of electors and, when permitted by ordinance adopted
192 pursuant to section 1 of this act, minor municipal voters checked as
193 having voted at the last-preceding election at which such office
194 appeared on the ballot.

> This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following
> sections:

Section 1	*from passage*	New section
Sec. 2	*from passage*	9-1
Sec. 3	*from passage*	9-372

Statement of Purpose:

To permit individuals who have attained the age of sixteen years, but who have not attained the age of eighteen years, to vote at elections and primaries of municipal officers and on local questions.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors:	REP. ELLIOTT, 88th Dist.; REP. JOHNSON, 49th Dist.
	REP. SIMMONS, 144th Dist.; SEN. HASKELL, 26th Dist.
	REP. ZIOGAS, 79th Dist.; REP. PHIPPS, 100th Dist.
	SEN. LOPES, 6th Dist.; REP. DILLON, 92nd Dist.
	REP. SIMMS, 140th Dist.

H.B. 5883