



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Committee Bill No. 6672

LCO No. 6486



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,
2 by ordinance, permit bona fide residents of such municipality who
3 have attained the age of sixteen years to vote (1) at any regular or
4 special municipal election for only the officers of such municipality or
5 at any primary for only the nomination of candidates for such officers,
6 and (2) at any referendum for any question or proposal of only such
7 municipality.

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

16 primary or referendum by minor municipal voters, as described in said
17 subsection and defined in section 9-1 of the general statutes, as
18 amended by this 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
21 election or primary described in subdivision (1) of said subsection and
22 any referendum described in subdivision (2) of said subsection, the
23 ballot 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 Section 9-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the
26 following 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
32 the candidates or a statement of a proposed constitutional amendment
33 or 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
38 mistake or omission made by the registrars or their assistants;

39 (d) "Election" means any [electors'] meeting at which the electors
40 and, when and where permitted by ordinance adopted pursuant to
41 section 1 of this act, minor municipal voters choose public officials by
42 use of voting tabulators or by paper ballots as provided in section 9-
43 272;

44 (e) "Elector" means any person possessing the qualifications

45 prescribed by the Constitution and duly admitted to, and entitled to
46 exercise, the privileges of an elector in a town;

47 (f) Repealed by P.A. 77-298, S. 14;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

73 subsection (d) of this section, and is not a town meeting, or (3) a
74 question or proposal which is submitted to a vote of the electors, [or]
75 voters or, when and where permitted by ordinance adopted pursuant
76 to section 1 of this act, minor municipal voters, as the case may be, of a
77 municipality at a meeting of such electors, [or] voters or minor
78 municipal voters pursuant to section 7-7 or pursuant to charter or
79 special act;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

129 (4) "District office" means an elective office for which only the

130 electors in a district, as defined in subdivision (3) of this section, may
131 vote;

132 (5) "Major party" means (A) a political party or organization whose
133 candidate for Governor at the last-preceding election for Governor
134 received, under the designation of that political party or organization,
135 at least twenty per cent of the whole number of votes cast for all
136 candidates for Governor, or (B) a political party having, at the last-
137 preceding election for Governor, a number of enrolled members on the
138 active registry list equal to at least twenty per cent of the total number
139 of enrolled members of all political parties on the active registry list in
140 the state;

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

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

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

157 (9) "Party-endorsed candidate" means (A) in the case of a candidate
158 for state or district office, a person endorsed by the convention of a
159 political party as a candidate in a primary to be held by such party,
160 and (B) in the case of a candidate for municipal office or for member of

161 a town committee, a person endorsed by the town committee, caucus
162 or convention, as the case may be, of a political party as a candidate in
163 a primary to be held by such party;

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

166 (11) "Primary" means a meeting of the enrolled members of a
167 political party and, when applicable under section 9-431, unaffiliated
168 electors and, where permitted by ordinance adopted pursuant to
169 section 1 of this act, minor municipal voters, held during consecutive
170 hours at which such members, [or] electors or minor municipal voters
171 may, without assembling at the same hour, vote by secret ballot for
172 candidates for nomination to office or for town committee members;

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

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

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

189 (15) "Votes cast for the same office at the last-preceding election" or
190 "votes cast for all candidates for such office at the last-preceding

191 election" means, in the case of multiple openings for the same office,
192 the total number of electors and, where permitted by ordinance
193 adopted pursuant to section 1 of this act, minor municipal voters
194 checked as having voted at the last-preceding election at which such
195 office appeared on the ballot.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-1
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	9-372

Statement of Purpose:

To permit sixteen year olds 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. ZIOGAS, 79th Dist.; REP. WINKLER, 56th Dist.
REP. ELLIOTT, 88th Dist.; REP. PHIPPS, 100th Dist.

H.B. 6672