

1 **Connecticut Sentencing Commission**

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3
4 **State of Connecticut**
5 **General Assembly**

6
7 **January Session, 2021**
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9
10 ***AN ACT FACILITATING VOTING BY PERSONS INCARCERATED IN***
11 ***CONNECTICUT CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES AND RESTORING VOTING RIGHTS***
12 ***AND ELECTORAL PRIVILEGES FOR PERSONS INCARCERATED FOR FELONY***
13 ***CONVICTIONS WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF RELEASE.***
14

15
16 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly
17 convened:

18
19 Section 1. (NEW) *(Effective July 1, 2021)* (a) As used in this section:

20
21 (1) “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Correction;

22
23 (2) “Correctional facility” means a correctional institution, community correctional
24 center or other facility administered by the Commissioner of Correction; and

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26 (3) “Eligible person who is incarcerated” means a person committed to the custody of
27 the Commissioner of Correction for confinement in a correctional facility, except a person
28 sentenced to a term of life imprisonment without the possibility of release.

29
30 (4) “Admitting official” has the same meaning as provided in section 9-17a of the
31 general statutes.

32
33 (b) Not later than fourteen days after an eligible person is incarcerated in a correctional
34 facility, either initially or by transfer from another correctional facility, the Commissioner
35 of Correction shall provide to the person voter registration information and materials
36 described in subsection (a) of section 9-19h of the general statutes, as amended by this
37 act, and a mail voter registration application form described in section 9-23h of the
38 general statutes. The commissioner shall also provide an eligible person who is
39 incarcerated with a mail voter registration application form at any other time upon the
40 request of such person.

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(c) The commissioner may (1) provide electronic access to enable an eligible person who is incarcerated to use the online voter registration system established under section 9-19k of the general statutes, and (2) assist an eligible person who is incarcerated in completing either a mail or online voter registration application.

(d) A person’s residence for the purposes of a voter registration application under this section shall be the person’s bona fide residence, as described in section 9-12 of the general statutes, immediately before incarceration.

(e) The commissioner is not an admitting official.

Sec. 2. (NEW) *(Effective July 1, 2021)* (a) As used in this section, the terms “commissioner”, “correctional facility” and “eligible person who is incarcerated” have the same meanings as provided in section 1 of this act.

(b) Not later than fourteen days after an eligible person is incarcerated in a correctional facility, either initially or by transfer from another correctional facility, the Commissioner of Correction shall (1) inform the person of (A) the opportunity for eligible persons who are incarcerated and electors, as defined in section 9-1 of the general statutes, to vote by absentee ballot for primaries, elections and referenda, and (B) the procedure for applying for presumptive absentee ballot status in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this section and, alternatively, the procedure for applying for an absentee ballot for the next primary, election or referendum in the municipality in which the person’s residence is located, and (2) provide the person with an application for an absentee ballot described in section 9-139a of the general statutes, which may be used to apply for either presumptive absentee ballot status or for an absentee ballot for such primary, election or referendum. The commissioner shall also provide an eligible person who is incarcerated with an application for an absentee ballot at any other time upon the request of such person.

(c) (1) Any eligible person who is incarcerated and (A) is either an elector or has completed a voter registration application under section 1 of this act and (B) files an application for an absentee ballot described in section 9-139a of the general statutes, with a certification from the commissioner indicating that such person is committed to the custody of the commissioner for confinement in a correctional facility and is unable to

77 appear in person at such person's designated or prospective polling location, shall be
78 eligible for presumptive absentee ballot status and shall receive an absentee ballot for
79 each election, primary or referendum conducted in such person's municipality for which
80 such person is eligible to vote, provided a person who has completed a voter registration
81 application under section 1 of this act shall not be eligible for presumptive absentee ballot
82 status unless the person's voter registration application is accepted by a registrar. The
83 presumptive absentee ballot status for an eligible person who is incarcerated and an
84 elector shall remain in effect until such elector: (i) Is removed from the official registry
85 list of the municipality, (ii) is removed from presumptive absentee ballot status pursuant
86 to the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection, (iii) requests that he or she no
87 longer receive such presumptive absentee ballot status, or (iv) is discharged from
88 confinement in a correctional facility.

89
90 (2) The registrars of voters shall send written notice to each such elector with
91 presumptive absentee ballot status in January of each year, at the mailing address
92 provided on the elector's absentee ballot application filed under subdivision (1) of this
93 subsection. Such notice shall be on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State. If the
94 elector, as directed on the form, either (A) fails to return such notice to the registrars of
95 voters within forty-five days after the notice is sent to the elector, or (B) fails to confirm
96 that the residence address provided on the elector's absentee ballot application is still the
97 elector's residence address, the elector shall be removed from presumptive absentee
98 ballot status. Failure to return such written notice shall not result in the removal of an
99 elector from the official registry list of the municipality.

100
101 Sec. 3. Subsection (k) of section 9-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the
102 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

103
104 (k) (1) A person shall register with the town clerk before distributing five or more
105 absentee ballot applications for an election, primary or referendum, not including
106 applications distributed to such person's immediate family. Such requirement shall not
107 apply to (A) a person who is the designee of an applicant, or (B) the Commissioner of
108 Correction with regard to the provision of absentee ballot applications under section 2 of
109 this act to eligible persons who are incarcerated.

110
111 (2) Any person who distributes absentee ballot applications shall maintain a list of the
112 names and addresses of prospective absentee ballot applicants who receive such
113 applications, and shall file such list with the town clerk prior to the date of the primary,

114 election or referendum for which the applications were so distributed. Such requirement
115 shall not apply to the Commissioner of Correction with regard to the provision of
116 absentee ballot applications under section 2 of this act to eligible persons who are
117 incarcerated.

118
119 (3) Any person who distributes absentee ballot applications and receives an executed
120 application shall forthwith file the application with the town clerk.

121
122 Sec. 4. Subsection (m) of section 9-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the
123 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

124
125 (m) The Secretary of the State shall conspicuously post on the Secretary of the State's
126 web site, adjacent to the absentee ballot application form available for downloading, a
127 notice that the application may be downloaded by a person only for (1) the person's own
128 use, (2) the use of a member of the person's immediate family, [or] (3) the use of a designee
129 of the applicant, or (4) the use of the Commissioner of Correction under section 2 of this
130 act. The notice shall also contain an advisory statement concerning the requirements of
131 subsection (k) of this section.

132
133 Sec. 5. Subsection (o) of section 9-140 of the general statutes is repealed and the
134 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

135
136 (o) As used in this section, (1) "immediate family" has the same meaning as provided
137 in subsection (a) of section 9-140b, [and] (2) "designee" has the same meaning as provided
138 in subsection (b) of section 9-140b, and (3) "eligible person who is incarcerated" has the
139 same meaning as provided in section 1 of this act.

140
141 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) As used in this section, "correctional facility"
142 and "eligible person who is incarcerated" have the same meanings as provided in section
143 1 of this act.

144
145 (b) Not later than February 15, 2022, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of
146 Correction and the Connecticut Sentencing Commission shall jointly submit a report to
147 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
148 relating to elections, on the implementation of sections 1 to 5, inclusive, of this act. Such
149 report shall include, for the preceding calendar year, (1) a summary of the measures taken
150 by the Commissioner of Correction to carry out the purposes of said sections, and (2)

151 findings and recommendations concerning voter registration and absentee voting by
152 eligible persons who are incarcerated at correctional facilities.

153

154 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a)(1) A person whose right to become an elector
155 and privileges as an elector (A) have been forfeited, pursuant to section 9-46 of the
156 general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2021, upon conviction of a felony
157 and committal to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction for confinement in a
158 correctional institution or facility or a community residence, committal to confinement in
159 a federal correctional institution or facility, or committal to the custody of the chief
160 correctional official of any other state or a county of any other state for confinement in a
161 correctional institution or facility or a community residence in such state or county, and
162 (B) as of June 30, 2021, have not been restored pursuant to section 9-46a of the general
163 statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2021, shall have such person's right to
164 become an elector and privileges as an elector restored on July 1, 2021. (2) The provisions
165 of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not apply to a person sentenced to a term of life
166 imprisonment without the possibility of release.

167

168 (b) Not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section, the Commissioner
169 of Correction shall notify each person described in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this
170 section of the restoration of the person's right to become an elector and privileges as an
171 elector.

172

173 (c) On and after the effective date of this section, a person shall forfeit such person's
174 right to become an elector and such person's privileges as an elector upon (1) conviction
175 of a felony and sentencing to a term of life imprisonment without the possibility of release
176 and (2) committal to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction for confinement in a
177 correctional institution or facility or a community residence, committal to confinement
178 in a federal correctional institution or facility, or committal to the custody of the chief
179 correctional official of any other state or a county of any other state for confinement in a
180 correctional institution or facility or a community residence in such state or county.

181

182 Sec. 8. Subsection (b) of section 9-19h of the general statutes is repealed and the
183 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

184

185 (b) In addition to the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, the Commissioner
186 of Motor Vehicles, not later than January 1, 1994, shall include an application for the
187 admission of an elector with each application form provided for a motor vehicle

188 operator's license and a motor vehicle operator's license renewal, which are issued under
189 subpart (B) of part III of chapter 246, and with each application form provided for an
190 identity card issued under section 1-1h. Such application form for the admission of an
191 elector (1) shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of the State, (2) shall not include
192 any provisions for the witnessing of the application, and (3) shall contain a statement that
193 (A) specifies each eligibility requirement, (B) contains an attestation that the applicant
194 meets each such requirement, and (C) requires the signature of the applicant under
195 penalty of perjury. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall accept any such completed
196 application for admission which is submitted in person or by mail. The applicant shall
197 state on such form, under penalty of perjury, the applicant's name, bona fide residence
198 address, date of birth, whether the applicant is a United States citizen, party enrollment,
199 if any, prior voting address, if registered previously, and that the applicant's privileges
200 as an elector are not forfeited by reason of conviction of a felony and sentencing to a term
201 of life imprisonment without the possibility of release. No Social Security number on any
202 such application form for the admission of an elector filed prior to January 1, 2000, may
203 be disclosed to the public or to any governmental agency. The commissioner shall
204 indicate on each such form the date of receipt of such application to ensure that any
205 eligible applicant is registered to vote in an election if it is received by the Commissioner
206 of Motor Vehicles by the last day for registration to vote in an election. The commissioner
207 shall provide the applicant with an application receipt, on a form approved by the
208 Secretary of the State and on which the commissioner shall record the date that the
209 commissioner received the application, using an official date stamp bearing the words
210 "Department of Motor Vehicles". The commissioner shall provide such receipt whether
211 the application was submitted in person or by mail. The commissioner shall forthwith
212 transmit the application to the registrars of voters of the applicant's town of residence. If
213 a registration application is accepted within five days before the last day for registration
214 to vote in a regular election, the application shall be transmitted to the registrars of voters
215 of the town of voting residence of the applicant not later than five days after the date of
216 acceptance. The procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f) and (g) of section 9-23g which are
217 not inconsistent with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended
218 from time to time, shall apply to applications made under this section. The commissioner
219 is not an admitting official, [and may not restore, under the provisions of section 9-46a,
220 electoral privileges of persons convicted of a felony] as defined in section 9-17a.

221
222 Sec. 9. Subsection (a) of section 9-20 of the 2020 supplement to the general statutes is
223 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):
224

225 (a) Each person who applies for admission as an elector in person to an admitting
226 official shall, upon a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State and signed by the
227 applicant, state under penalties of perjury, his name, bona fide residence by street and
228 number, date of birth, whether he is a United States citizen, whether his privileges as an
229 elector are forfeited by reason of conviction of [crime] a felony and sentencing to a term
230 of life imprisonment without the possibility of release, and whether he has previously
231 been admitted as an elector in any town in this or any other state. Each such applicant
232 shall present his birth certificate, drivers' license or Social Security card to the admitting
233 official for inspection at the time of application. Notwithstanding the provisions of any
234 special act or charter to the contrary, the application form shall also, in a manner
235 prescribed by the Secretary of the State, provide for application for enrollment in any
236 political party, including, on any such form printed on or after January 1, 2006, a list of
237 the names of the major parties, as defined in section 9-372, as options for the applicant.
238 The form shall indicate that such enrollment is not mandatory.

239
240 Sec. 10. Subsection (b) of section 9-23n of the general statutes is repealed and the
241 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

242
243 (b) Voter registration agencies shall (1) distribute mail voter registration application
244 forms, (2) assist applicants for such assistance or services in completing voter registration
245 application forms, except for applicants who refuse such assistance, (3) accept completed
246 voter registration application forms and provide each applicant with an application
247 receipt, on which the agency shall record the date that the agency received the
248 application, using an official date stamp bearing the name of the agency, and (4)
249 immediately transmit all such applications to the registrars of voters of the town of voting
250 residence of the applicants. The agency shall provide such receipt whether the application
251 was submitted in person or by mail. If a registration application is accepted within five
252 days before the last day for registration to vote in a regular election, the application shall
253 be transmitted to the registrars of voters of the town of voting residence of the applicant
254 not later than five days after the date of acceptance. The voter registration agency shall
255 indicate on the completed mail voter registration application form, without indicating
256 the identity of the voter registration agency, the date of its acceptance by such agency, to
257 ensure that any eligible applicant is registered to vote in an election if it is received by the
258 registration agency by the last day for registration to vote in an election. If a state-funded
259 program primarily engaged in providing services to persons with disabilities provides
260 services to a person with a disability at the person's home, the agency shall provide such
261 voter registration services at the person's home. The procedures in subsections (c), (d), (f)

262 and (g) of section 9-23g that are not inconsistent with the National Voter Registration Act
263 of 1993, P.L. 103-31, as amended from time to time, shall apply to applications made
264 under this section. Officials and employees of such voter registration agencies are not
265 admitting officials, as defined in section 9-17a. [, and may not restore, under the
266 provisions of section 9-46a, electoral privileges of persons convicted of a felony.]
267

268 Sec. 11. Section 9-26 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted
269 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):
270

271 Any person who, because of service in the armed forces, membership in the United
272 States Merchant Marine, membership in a religious or welfare group or agency attached
273 to and serving with the armed forces or civilian employment with the United States or
274 because he is a spouse or dependent of any such person, and any person who because of
275 temporary residence outside the territorial limits of the several states of the United States
276 and the District of Columbia, may, at any time, in the manner and upon a form prescribed
277 by the Secretary of the State, make application, in person or by mail, to the town clerk of
278 such town for such examination and for admission as an elector. Upon such form, signed
279 by the applicant, he shall state under penalties of perjury, his name, bona fide residence
280 by street and number, if any, in such town and date of birth, and that he is, at the time of
281 making such application, a citizen of the United States. He shall also state that he is (1) a
282 member of the armed forces, of the merchant marine or of a religious or welfare group or
283 agency attached to and serving with the armed forces, (2) a civilian employee of the
284 United States, (3) a spouse or dependent of any person described in subdivision (1) or (2),
285 or (4) a person temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the several states of
286 the United States and the District of Columbia. The person shall also state the date of his
287 induction into such armed forces or the date of his joining the merchant marine or such
288 religious or welfare group or agency or of his entering United States employment or
289 moving temporarily outside the territorial limits of the several states of the United States
290 and the District of Columbia [; whether his privileges as an elector are forfeited by reason
291 of conviction of crime;] and whether he is, at the time of making such application,
292 registered as an elector in any other town in this or any other state. The application form
293 shall provide for application for enrollment in any political party and shall indicate that
294 such enrollment is optional. No Social Security number on any such form filed prior to
295 January 1, 2000, may be disclosed to the public or to any governmental agency. The town
296 clerk may accept such fully completed form as evidence of the qualifications of the
297 applicant to be admitted as an elector. The application for admission as an elector shall
298 include a statement that (A) specifies each eligibility requirement, (B) contains an

299 attestation that the applicant meets each such requirement and (C) requires the signature
300 of the applicant under penalty of perjury. In lieu of the application form prescribed by
301 the secretary under this section, any such person may apply for registration and
302 enrollment on the federal postcard application form provided pursuant to the Uniformed
303 and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 100 Stat. 924, 42 USC 1973ff et seq., as
304 amended from time to time, or any other applicable law.

305
306 Sec. 12. Section 9-31b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is
307 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

308 Such application shall be in form substantially as follows:

309 APPLICATION OF PERMANENTLY PHYSICALLY DISABLED PERSON FOR
310 ADMISSION AS AN ELECTOR

311 To the Town Clerk of the town of or to the registrar of voters of the ... Party of the
312 town of I hereby apply for admission as an elector:

313 (1) My name is (last name) (first name) (initial).

314 (2) My bona fide residence is (street and number), but I am presently residing at
315 (street, number and town if different from residence above).

316 (3) I am a permanently physically disabled person and my permanent physical
317 disability prevents me and will continue to prevent me from appearing in person at your
318 office.

319 (4) I am a United States Citizen who has attained the age of eighteen. [and my electoral
320 privileges are not forfeited by reason of conviction of any disfranchising crime.]

321 Dated at, Connecticut, this day of, 20...

322
323 Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 9-35 of the general statutes is repealed and the
324 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

325
326 (b) At such session and on any day except on the day of an election or primary, the
327 registrars shall remove from the list the name of each elector who has died, who has been
328 disfranchised by reason of conviction of a felony and sentencing to a term of life
329 imprisonment without the possibility of release or who has confirmed in writing that the
330 elector has moved out of the municipality, except electors entitled to remain on such list
331 under the provisions of this chapter. An elector shall be deemed to have confirmed in

332 writing that the elector has moved out of the municipality if (1) the elector has submitted
333 a change of address form for purposes of a state motor vehicle operator's license, unless
334 the elector states on the form that the change of address is not for voter registration
335 purposes, (2) the elector has submitted a change of address form to a voter registration
336 agency, as defined in section 9-23n, as amended by this act, and such agency has provided
337 such change of address to the registrars of voters, or (3) the registrars of voters have
338 received a cancellation of previous registration from any other election official indicating
339 that such elector has registered as an elector outside such municipality.

340

341 Sec. 14. Section 9-158b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is
342 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

343

344 (a) Each citizen of the United States who is at least eighteen years of age [,] and is a
345 former resident [and who has not forfeited such citizen's electoral privileges because of a
346 disfranchising crime,] may vote for presidential and vice-presidential electors, but for no
347 other offices, in the town in this state in which such citizen formerly resided in the manner
348 provided in sections 9-158c to 9-158m, inclusive.

349

350 (b) Each citizen of the United States who is at least eighteen years of age; who resides
351 outside the United States and who, immediately prior to moving outside the United
352 States, was a bona fide resident of a town in this state; who is not registered to vote and
353 is not voting in any other state or election district of a state or territory or in any territory
354 or possession of the United States [,] and who has a valid passport or card of identity and
355 registration issued under the authority of the Secretary of State of the United States or
356 alternative form of identification [and who has not forfeited his electoral privileges
357 because of a disfranchising crime,] may vote in federal elections in the town in this state
358 in which he formerly resided immediately prior to his departure from the United States
359 in the manner provided in sections 9-158c to 9-158m, inclusive. The exercise of any right
360 to vote in federal elections by any citizen outside the United States shall not affect the
361 determination of his place of residence or domicile for purposes of any tax imposed under
362 federal, state or local law.

363

364 (c) Each citizen of the United States born outside of the United States who is at least
365 eighteen years of age, whose parent or guardian was a bona fide resident of a town in
366 this state immediately prior to moving outside the United States, who is not registered to
367 vote and is not voting in any other state or election district of a state or territory or in any
368 territory or possession of the United States [,] and who has a valid passport or card of

369 identity and registration issued under the authority of the Secretary of State of the United
370 States or alternative form of identification [and who has not forfeited such citizen's
371 electoral privileges because of a disfranchising crime,] shall be eligible to vote pursuant
372 to this section. Such citizen may vote in federal elections in the town in this state in which
373 the citizen's parent or guardian formerly resided immediately prior to the parent's or
374 guardian's departure from the United States, in the manner provided in sections 9-158c
375 to 9-158m, inclusive.

376
377 Sec. 15. Section 9-158d of the general statutes is repealed and the following is
378 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

379
380 (a) The application for a presidential ballot shall be a form signed in duplicate by the
381 applicant under penalty of false statement in absentee balloting, which shall provide
382 substantially as follows:

383
384 To the Town Clerk of the Town of ..., Connecticut

385
386 I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of false statement in absentee balloting that
387 the following statements are true:

388
389 1. I am a citizen of the United States.

390 [2. I have not forfeited my electoral privileges because of conviction of a disfranchising
391 crime.]

392 [3.] 2. I was born on ..., and on the day of the next presidential election, I shall be at
393 least 18 years of age.

394 [4.] 3. FORMER RESIDENT. I am a former resident of the above town, to which I am
395 making this application, and resided at Street therein. I moved from such town to my
396 present town and state of residence on the day of ..., 20.., being within thirty days
397 before the date of the next presidential election, and for that reason I cannot register to
398 vote in said presidential election in my present town and state of residence. I am now a
399 bona fide resident of the Town of ..., in the state of ..., now residing at Street therein.

400 [5.] 4. I hereby apply for a "presidential ballot" for the election to be held on ..., 20... I
401 have not voted and will not vote otherwise than by this ballot at that election. I am not
402 eligible to vote for electors of President and Vice-President in any other state.

403 [6.] 5. The said ballot is to be given to me personally or mailed to me at

404 (bona fide mailing address)

405 Dated at ..., this ... day of ... 20...

406 (Signature of applicant)

407 (b) The application for an overseas ballot shall be the federal application permitted
408 under section 9-153a or a form signed by the applicant under penalty of false statement
409 in absentee balloting which shall provide substantially as follows:

410 To the Town Clerk of the Town of ..., Connecticut

411 I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of false statement in absentee balloting that
412 the following statements are true:

413 1. I am a citizen of the United States.

414 [2. I have not forfeited my electoral privileges because of conviction of a disfranchising
415 crime.]

416 [3.] 2. I was born on ..., and on the day of the next federal election, I shall be at least
417 eighteen years of age.

418 [4.] 3. I was a resident of the above town, to which I am making this application, and
419 resided at no. Street therein. I moved from such town to my present residence on the
420 ... day of ..., 20... I now reside in ..., at no. Street therein.

421 [5.] 4. I have a valid passport or card of identity and registration issued under the
422 authority of the Secretary of State of the United States or alternate form of identification.

423 [6.] 5. I hereby apply for an overseas ballot for the

() Primary

() General Election

() Special Election

424 to be held on ..., 20... I do not maintain a domicile in any other state or election district of
425 any state or territory or any territory or possession of the United States. I have not voted
426 and will not vote otherwise than by this ballot at such election or primary for which I
427 now apply for an overseas ballot. I am not eligible to vote in any town in Connecticut or
428 in any other state or election district of any state or territory or any territory or possession
429 of the United States.

430 [7.] 6. The said ballot is to be mailed to me at

431 (Mailing address)

432 Dated at, this day of, 20...

433 (Signature of applicant)

434

435 Sec. 16. Subsection (a) of section 9-159p of the general statutes is repealed and the
436 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

437

438 (a) Any elector may challenge the right of any person offering to vote by absentee ballot
439 based upon false identity, disenfranchisement for conviction of a felony and sentencing
440 to a term of life imprisonment without the possibility of release, or lack of bona fide
441 residence. The failure of an elector to challenge, pursuant to this section, the right of a
442 person to vote by absentee ballot shall not bar such elector from bringing an action to
443 contest the primary or election under section 9-323, 9-324, 9-328 or 9-329a, based on the
444 alleged invalidity of the absentee ballot cast at such primary or election.

445

446 Sec. 17. Section 9-170 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted
447 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

448

449 At any regular or special town election any person may vote who is registered as an
450 elector on the revised registry list of the town last completed and he shall vote only in the
451 district in which he is so registered, provided any person may vote whose name is
452 restored to the list under the provisions of section 9-42 or whose name is added on the
453 last week day before a regular election under the provisions of section 9-17. Each person
454 so registered shall be permitted to vote unless he is not a bona fide resident of the town
455 and political subdivision holding the election or has been convicted of a [disfranchising
456 crime] felony and sentenced to a term of life imprisonment without the possibility of
457 release. Any person offering to vote and being challenged as to his identity or residence
458 shall, before he votes, prove his identity with the person on whose name he offers to vote
459 or his bona fide residence in the town and political subdivision holding the election, as
460 the case may be, by the testimony, under oath, of at least one other elector or by such
461 other evidence acceptable to the moderator.

462

463 Sec. 18. Section 9-171 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted
464 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

465

466 In all cities, unless otherwise provided by law, any person entitled to vote at city
467 elections who is registered on the revised registry list last completed, and any person
468 having a legal right to vote at such elections whose name is entered on a copy of such list

469 before voting, may vote therein in the district for which such registry list is made;
470 provided those persons may vote whose names are restored to the list under the
471 provisions of section 9-42 or whose names are added on the last week day before a regular
472 election under the provisions of section 9-17. Each person so registered shall be permitted
473 to vote, unless he has lost his right by removal from such city since he has registered or
474 by conviction of a [disfranchising crime] felony and sentencing to a term of life
475 imprisonment without the possibility of release. Any person offering so to vote, and
476 being challenged as to his identity or residence, shall, before he votes, prove his identity
477 with the person on whose name he offers to vote or his bona fide residence in such city,
478 as the case may be, by the testimony, under oath, of at least one other elector or by such
479 other evidence acceptable to the moderator. The names of those voting shall be checked
480 on such copy of such list, and such copy so checked shall be kept on file in the office of
481 the town clerk, as in the case of state elections.

482

483 Sec. 19. Section 9-172 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted
484 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

485

486 At any regular or special state election any person may vote who was registered on the
487 last-completed revised registry list of the town in which he offers to vote, and he shall
488 vote in the district in which he was so registered; provided those persons may vote whose
489 names are restored to the list under the provisions of section 9-42 or whose names are
490 added on the last weekday before a regular election under the provisions of section 9-17.
491 Each person so registered shall be permitted to vote if he is a bona fide resident of the
492 town and political subdivision holding the election and has not lost his right by
493 conviction of a [disfranchising crime] felony and sentencing to a term of life
494 imprisonment without the possibility of release. Any person offering so to vote and being
495 challenged as to his identity or residence shall, before he votes, prove his identity with
496 the person on whose name he offers to vote or his bona fide residence in the town and
497 political subdivision holding the election, as the case may be, by the testimony, under
498 oath, of at least one other elector or by such other evidence as is acceptable to the
499 moderator.

500

501 Sec. 20. Section 9-192 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted
502 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

503

504 Each registrar of voters immediately after his election shall appoint a deputy registrar
505 of voters to hold office during his pleasure and may, at any time, fill any vacancy in said

506 office. He shall file with the town clerk a certificate of each such appointment and the
507 town clerk shall record the certificate with the records of town meetings. Each deputy
508 registrar of voters shall assist his principal when required, discharge his duties in his
509 absence or inability to act and, in case of the death, removal or resignation of such
510 principal, shall become registrar of voters and appoint a deputy, and shall file with the
511 town clerk a certificate of such appointment, which shall be recorded with the records of
512 town meetings. If a vacancy exists in the office of registrar of voters in consequence of a
513 refusal or failure to accept the office or a failure of the registrar to appoint a deputy
514 registrar, the town committee of the same political party as the registrar of voters who so
515 refused, failed to accept or failed to appoint, or other appointing authority specified in
516 local party rules shall fill such vacancy by the appointment of some suitable person, who
517 shall belong to the same political party as the registrar of voters who so refused, failed to
518 accept or failed to appoint. Each registrar of voters in any town may, as needed, appoint
519 and employ not more than four assistant registrars of voters for each voting district
520 therein, who shall serve at the pleasure of the registrar of voters and assist such registrar
521 in the performance of his duties, and, for purposes of any admission session held
522 pursuant to section 9-19b or subsection (a) of section 9-19c, as many special assistants as
523 are necessary to carry out the duties of such session. Such registrar shall file with the town
524 clerk a certificate of each such appointment, which shall be recorded with the records of
525 the town, and shall appoint such other assistants as are necessary for the performance of
526 duties required by sections 9-12 to [9-45] 9-43, inclusive, on election day and the six days
527 preceding. Unless otherwise provided by subsection (b) of section 9-19b, in the absence
528 of either registrar of voters, his deputy or any of his assistants, except special assistants,
529 shall have all the powers conferred, and may perform any of the duties imposed, upon
530 such registrar by any of the provisions of the statutes. Each deputy, assistant or special
531 assistant registrar shall be an elector of the municipality in which he is appointed. Each
532 deputy registrar shall also, at the time of his appointment and during the six months
533 immediately preceding his appointment, be an enrolled member of the same party as the
534 registrar who makes such appointment.

535

536 Sec. 21. Subsection (a) of section 9-236b of the general statutes is repealed and the
537 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

538

539 (a) The Secretary of the State shall provide each municipality with sufficient quantities
540 of a poster size copy, at least eighteen by twenty-four inches, of a Voter's Bill of Rights,
541 which shall be posted conspicuously at each polling place. The text of the Voter's Bill of
542 Rights shall be:

543 “VOTER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

544 Every registered voter in this state has the right to:

545 (1) Inspect a sample ballot before voting;

546 (2) Receive instructions concerning how to operate voting equipment, on sample
547 voting equipment before voting;

548 (3) Cast a ballot if the voter is in line when the polls are closing;

549 (4) Ask for and receive assistance in voting, including assistance in languages other
550 than English where required by federal or state law;

551 (5) Vote free from coercion or intimidation by election officials or any other person;

552 (6) Cast a ballot using voting equipment that accurately counts all votes;

553 (7) Vote by provisional ballot if the individual registered to vote and the individual's
554 name is not on the voter list; and

555 [(8) Be informed of the process for restoring the individual's right to vote if the
556 individual was incarcerated for a felony conviction; and]

557 [(9)] (8) Vote independently and in privacy at a polling place, regardless of physical
558 disability.

559
560 If any of your rights have been violated, you have the right to file an official complaint
561 with the State Elections Enforcement Commission at (toll-free telephone number) or
562 the United States Department of Justice at (toll-free telephone number). In addition,
563 before leaving the polling place you may notify the moderator of the violation.”

564
565 Sec. 22. Section 9-355 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted
566 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

567
568 Any person who, without reasonable cause, neglects to perform any of the duties
569 required of him by the laws relating to elections or primaries and for which neglect no
570 other punishment is provided, and any person who is guilty of fraud in the performance
571 of any such duty, and any person who makes any unlawful alteration in any list required
572 by law, shall be fined not more than three hundred dollars or be imprisoned not more
573 than one year or be both fined and imprisoned. [Any official who is convicted of fraud in
574 the performance of any duty imposed upon him by any law relating to the registration or

575 admission of electors or to the conduct of any election shall be disfranchised.] Any public
576 officer or any election official upon whom any duty is imposed by part I of chapter 147
577 and sections 9-308 to 9-311, inclusive, who wilfully omits or neglects to perform any such
578 duty or does any act prohibited therein for which punishment is not otherwise provided
579 shall be guilty of a class E felony.

580
581 Sec. 23. Section 9-358 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted
582 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

583
584 Any person who, upon oath or affirmation, legally administered, wilfully and
585 corruptly testifies or affirms, before any registrar of voters, any moderator of any election,
586 primary or referendum, any board for admission of electors or the State Elections
587 Enforcement Commission, falsely, to any material fact concerning the identity, age,
588 residence or other qualifications of any person whose right to be registered or admitted
589 as an elector or to vote at any election, primary or referendum is being passed upon and
590 decided, shall be guilty of a class D felony. [and shall be disfranchised.]

591
592 Sec. 24. Section 9-360 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted
593 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

594
595 Any person not legally qualified who fraudulently votes in any town meeting, primary,
596 election or referendum in which the person is not qualified to vote, and any legally
597 qualified person who, at such meeting, primary, election or referendum, fraudulently
598 votes more than once at the same meeting, primary, election or referendum, shall be fined
599 not less than three hundred dollars or more than five hundred dollars and shall be
600 imprisoned not less than one year or more than two years. [and shall be disfranchised.]
601 Any person who votes or attempts to vote at any election, primary, referendum or town
602 meeting by assuming the name of another legally qualified person shall be guilty of a
603 class D felony. [and shall be disfranchised.]

604
605 Sec. 25. Section 9-361 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted
606 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

607
608 The following persons shall be guilty of primary or enrollment violations: (1) Any
609 person unlawfully voting or participating or attempting to vote or participate in any
610 primary in which he is not eligible to vote or participate; (2) in towns divided into voting
611 districts, any elector who registers or votes at any primary in a voting district other than

612 the district in which such elector is legally entitled to vote at the time of such primary; (3)
613 any elector who signs the name of another to a written application to register, without
614 the knowledge and consent of the person whose name is signed thereto, or who falsely
615 represents the contents of any written or printed form of application for enrollment with
616 intent to secure the application of an elector for enrollment upon a list other than that of
617 his true political preference; (4) any registrar or deputy registrar of voters who fails to
618 hold sessions as provided in sections 9-51 and 9-53 or who fails to register an elector upon
619 the oral or written application for enrollment of such elector, except as provided by law,
620 or who fails to erase an elector's name as provided in section 9-59 or who registers any
621 elector upon an enrollment list other than that declared by such elector in his application
622 as his political preference, or who removes or erases the name of any elector from any
623 enrollment list except as provided by law; (5) any person who fails to properly serve any
624 notice or citation required by sections 9-60 and 9-61 when directed so to do by any
625 registrar or deputy registrar, or who makes any false return as to any such notice or
626 citation; and (6) any moderator of a primary of the enrolled electors of a specified party,
627 such primary being legally called for the nomination of candidates for any public elective
628 office, who fails to comply with the requirements of chapter 153. The penalty for any such
629 violation shall be a class D misdemeanor, except that any person found to have violated
630 subdivision (1) or (2) of this section shall be guilty of a class D felony. [and shall be
631 disfranchised.]

632
633 Sec. 26. Section 9-453e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is
634 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

635
636 Each circulator of a nominating petition page shall be a United States citizen, at least
637 eighteen years of age and a resident of a town in this state. [and shall not be on parole
638 for conviction of a felony.] Any individual proposed as a candidate in any nominating
639 petition may serve as circulator of the pages of such nominating petition.

640
641 Sec. 27. Section 9-453j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is
642 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

643
644 Each page of a nominating petition submitted to the town clerk or the Secretary of the
645 State and filed with the Secretary of the State under the provisions of sections 9-453a to
646 9-453s, inclusive, or section 9-216 shall contain a statement as to the residency in this state
647 and eligibility of the circulator and authenticity of the signatures thereon, signed under
648 penalties of false statement, by the person who circulated the same. Such statement shall

649 set forth (1) such circulator's residence address, including the town in this state in which
650 such circulator is a resident, (2) the circulator's date of birth and that the circulator is at
651 least eighteen years of age, (3) that the circulator is a United States citizen, [and not on
652 parole for conviction of a felony,] and (4) that each person whose name appears on such
653 page signed the same in person in the presence of such circulator and that either the
654 circulator knows each such signer or that the signer satisfactorily identified himself to the
655 circulator. Any false statement committed with respect to such statement shall be deemed
656 to have been committed in the town in which the petition was circulated.

657
658 Sec. 28. Section 1-25 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted
659 in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):
660

661 The forms of oaths shall be as follows, to wit:

662 FOR MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, EXECUTIVE
663 AND JUDICIAL OFFICERS.

664 You do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will support the
665 Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the state of Connecticut, so long
666 as you continue a citizen thereof; and that you will faithfully discharge, according to law,
667 the duties of the office of to the best of your abilities; so help you God.

668 FOR NOTARIES PUBLIC.

669 You do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will support the
670 Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the state of Connecticut; and
671 that you will faithfully discharge, according to law, the duties of the office of notary
672 public to the best of your abilities; so help you God.

673 FOR ELECTORS.

674 You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will be true and faithful to
675 the constitutions and governments of the State of Connecticut and the United States of
676 America; that the statements made in your application for admission as an elector are
677 true and complete; and that your privileges as an elector are not forfeited by reason of
678 conviction of a felony and sentencing to a term of life imprisonment without the
679 possibility of release; so help you God.

680 FOR ATTORNEYS.

681 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will
682 do nothing dishonest, and will not knowingly allow anything dishonest to be done in
683 court, and that you will inform the court of any dishonesty of which you have knowledge;
684 that you will not knowingly maintain or assist in maintaining any cause of action that is
685 false or unlawful; that you will not obstruct any cause of action for personal gain or
686 malice; but that you will exercise the office of attorney, in any court in which you may
687 practice, according to the best of your learning and judgment, faithfully, to both your
688 client and the court; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

689 FOR PETIT JURORS IN CRIMINAL CAUSES.

690 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will,
691 without respect of any persons or favor of any person, decide this case between the state
692 of Connecticut and the defendant (or defendants) based on the evidence given in court
693 and on the laws of this state, as explained by the judge; that you will not talk to each other
694 about this case until instructed to do so; that you will listen to and consider what the
695 other jurors have to say in deliberations about this case; that you will not speak to anyone
696 else, or allow anyone else to speak to you, about this case until you have been discharged
697 by the court; and that when you reach a decision, you will not disclose the decision until
698 it is announced in court; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

699 FOR ALTERNATE JURORS IN CRIMINAL CAUSES.

700 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that, if you
701 become a member of the jury for this case, you will, without respect of any persons or
702 favor of any person, decide this case between the state of Connecticut and the defendant
703 (or defendants) based on the evidence given in court and on the laws of this state, as
704 explained by the judge; that you will not talk to each other about this case until instructed
705 to do so; that you will listen to and consider what the other jurors have to say in
706 deliberations about this case; that you will not speak to anyone else, or allow anyone else
707 to speak to you about this case until you have been discharged by the court; and that
708 when you reach a decision, you will not disclose the decision until it is announced in
709 court; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

710 FOR JURORS IN CIVIL CAUSES.

711 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will
712 decide this case between the plaintiff and the defendant (or plaintiffs and defendants)
713 based on the evidence given in court and on the laws of this state as explained by the
714 judge; that you will not talk to each other about this case until instructed to do so; that
715 you will listen to and consider what the other jurors have to say in deliberations about
716 this case; that you will not speak to anyone else, or allow anyone else to speak to you,

717 about this case; and that when you reach a decision, you will not disclose the decision
718 until it is announced in court; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

719 FOR ALTERNATE JURORS IN CIVIL CAUSES.

720 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that, if you
721 become a member of the jury for this case, you will decide this case between the plaintiff
722 and the defendant (or plaintiffs and defendants) based on the evidence given in court and
723 on the laws of this state as explained by the judge; that you will not talk to each other
724 about this case until instructed to do so; that you will listen to and consider what the
725 other jurors have to say in deliberations about this case; that you will not speak to anyone
726 else, or allow anyone else to speak to you, about this case; and that when you reach a
727 decision, you will not disclose the decision until it is announced in court; so help you God
728 or upon penalty of perjury.

729 VOIR DIRE.

730 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will
731 answer truthfully all questions that you are asked, none of which will be about the merits
732 of the case for which the jury is being selected; so help you God or upon penalty of
733 perjury.

734 FOR WITNESSES.

735 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that the
736 evidence you shall give concerning this case shall be the truth, the whole truth and
737 nothing but the truth; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

738 FOR INVESTIGATORY GRAND JURY WITNESSES.

739 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that the
740 evidence you shall give concerning this investigation into the commission of a crime or
741 crimes, shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth; so help you God or
742 upon penalty of perjury.

743 FOR WITNESSES TWELVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER.

744 You promise that you will tell the truth.

745 FOR AN INTERPRETER IN A CRIMINAL CASE.

746 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will
747 interpret accurately the information (or indictment) that charges the accused with a crime
748 and all questions that the accused may be asked under the direction of the court in a
749 language the accused can understand and speak; that you will interpret accurately the
750 pleas of the accused to the information (or indictment) and the answers of the accused to
751 the court (or to the court and jury) in English; and that you will make all interpretations
752 to the best of your skill and judgment; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

753 FOR AN INTERPRETER IN COURT.

754 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will
755 interpret accurately the oath to be administered to the witness and all questions that the
756 witness may be asked under direction of the court in a language the witness can
757 understand and speak; that you will interpret accurately the answers of the witness to
758 the court (or to the court and jury) in English; and that you will make all interpretations
759 to the best of your skill and judgment; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

760 FOR AN INTERPRETER FOR A
761 JUROR WHO IS DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING.

762 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will
763 interpret accurately to a juror who is deaf or hard of hearing the juror orientation
764 program, any oath to be administered to the juror, all testimony and other relevant
765 conversation, and all questions that the juror may be asked under the direction of the
766 court; that you will interpret accurately the answers of the juror to the court in English;
767 that you will not participate in any manner in the deliberations of the jury other than
768 making an accurate interpretation of the remarks of the jurors during deliberations; that
769 you will make all interpretations to the best of your skill and judgment; and that you will
770 not communicate with anyone outside the jury concerning the business or matters before
771 the jury; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

772 FOR ASSESSORS, TO SUBSCRIBE UPON ABSTRACT.

773 I, ..., assessor of the town of ..., do solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm,
774 as the case may be, that I believe that all the lists, and the abstract of said town for the
775 year 20.., are made up and perfected according to law; so help me God or upon penalty
776 of perjury.

777 FOR PLAINTIFF, WHEN INDIFFERENT PERSON IS
778 AUTHORIZED TO SERVE WRIT.

779 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you
780 believe the plaintiff is (or plaintiffs are) in danger of losing the debt (damage or other
781 thing) in this writ, unless an indifferent person is authorized to immediately serve this
782 writ; so help you God or upon penalty of perjury.

783 FOR MEMBERS OF A COURT-MARTIAL.

784 You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will truly try and
785 determine, according to the evidence given in court, the matters depending between this
786 state and the officer (or officers) now to be tried; that you will not divulge the sentence of
787 the court until the same shall have been approved or disapproved, according to law;
788 neither will you, at any time, disclose the vote or opinion of any member of the court,
789 unless required by due course of law; so help you God.

790 FOR THE JUDGE-ADVOCATE OF A COURT-MARTIAL.

791 You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will not, at any time
792 whatever, disclose the vote or opinion of any member of any court-martial in which you
793 may be called to act, unless required by due course of law, nor divulge the sentence of
794 any such court, unless the same shall have been approved or disapproved, according to
795 law; and that you will faithfully and impartially do the duty of judge-advocate, according
796 to your best ability; so help you God.

797 FOR OFFICIALS APPOINTED TO SERVE IN ANY POLLING
798 PLACE IN ANY ELECTION OR PRIMARY.

799 You solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that you will faithfully discharge,
800 according to law, your duties as ..., to the best of your ability; and that you will serve in
801 this election or primary as the case may be, as an official, completely impartial with
802 respect to any candidate or any political party; so help you God.

803 FOR ALL OTHER PERSONS OF WHOM AN OATH IS REQUIRED.

804 You solemnly swear or solemnly and sincerely affirm, as the case may be, that you will
805 faithfully discharge, according to law, your duties as ... to the best of your abilities; so
806 help you God or upon penalty of perjury.
807

808 Sec. 29. Sections 9-45, 9-46 and 9-46a of the general statutes are repealed. (*Effective July*
809 *1, 2021*)

810
811

812 ***Statement of Purpose:***

813 To (1) provide for the restoration of the right to become a registered voter and the
814 electoral privileges of persons who are incarcerated for a felony conviction and the
815 retention of such right and privileges by persons who may be incarcerated for a felony
816 conviction in the future, except for any person sentenced to a term of life imprisonment
817 without the possibility of release, and (2) support the civic participation of individuals
818 committed to the custody of the Commissioner of Correction for confinement in a
819 correctional facility, by (A) requiring the Commissioner of Correction to provide to such
820 persons voting information and materials concerning voter registration and absentee
821 voting and (B) authorizing presumptive absentee ballot status for interested and eligible
822 incarcerated persons under which absentee ballots would be mailed to them for each
823 election, primary and referendum.