

63%

The total amount of Connecticut polling places hosted by schools.

School Safety + Municipal Primaries = AUGUST DATE CHANGE



September is one of the busiest school months of the year. Let's move municipal primaries back to August so they no longer interfere with our schools.

59%

The total amount of Connecticut towns that use schools as polling places.

VOTER TURNOUT



Municipal primaries were moved to the month of September in an effort to increase voter turnout. However, voter turnout statistics from the past decade have shown that turnout has **not** improved.

SCHOOL & STUDENT SAFETY



Safety is everyone's top concern – parents, school administrators and registrars of voters. Students, teachers and staff would clearly be safer when only authorized members of the public and their vehicles are allowed on school grounds during school hours.

SECURITY COSTS



Many schools hire police officers or professional security to be on school campuses when municipal primaries occur during school hours. Moving municipal primaries to times when schools are closed eliminates these expenses.

VOTER RIGHTS



Polling places should welcome everyone eligible to vote. Moving municipal primaries outside of the school calendar would allow registered voters who, for a variety of reasons, are not allowed on school grounds during school hours, including parents without child custody, to exercise their right to vote.

ELIMINATE VOTER ID CONFUSION



Members of the general public are typically not permitted to enter school facilities during school hours without first showing photo ID and checking in and out of the building. This contradicts Connecticut's Voter ID Laws which allow voters to enter a polling place and vote without photo ID and with a single check-in with an election official.

VOTING CONSISTENCY



Setting municipal primaries on the same schedule as state primaries will simplify the election calendar and reduce confusion for voters. The public will begin to associate the month of August with primaries, much like they currently identify November with Election Day.

MINIMIZE STUDENT DISRUPTION



Students will be less distracted and better able to focus on their school day without municipal primaries taking place in the same building. Class schedules will also no longer be disrupted by the presence of primaries taking place in gymnasiums, cafeteria/multi-purpose facilities and other large group rooms.

NO IMPACT ON REFERENDUMS OR ELECTIONS



Moving municipal primaries to August would have zero impact on towns' and cities' decisions and abilities to hold local referendums, nor would it impact Election Day in November.

TWO-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION



Election schedules and school schedules are always set in place at least a year in advance. If this change were to be effective January 2021, municipalities, political parties, voters and registrars of voters will have plenty of time to prepare for and accommodate the change.

Connecticut polling place data provided by the Office of the Secretary of the State Denise Merrill