

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CAPITOL OFFICE

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

2018 FEB - 7 A 11: 08

DANNEL P. MALLOY

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 64

WHEREAS, the right to vote is a fundamental right of all citizens; as U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote, it “is preservative of other basic civil and political rights”; and

WHEREAS, removing unnecessary barriers to voting and voter registration promotes greater interest and participation in our democratic process of government of the people, by the people, and for the people; and

WHEREAS, my administration, along with the Secretary of the State, has been a leader in the effort to remove barriers to convenient and reliable voting, including the passage in 2012 of legislation that created election day registration and online voter registration, and in 2016 implementing automated voter registration, allowing citizens to easily and quickly register to vote electronically at any driver-licensing site, ensuring more accurate voter rolls; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the State has been a leader in promoting greater participation in our democracy, by advocating for the ability of eligible voters to register and cast their votes in more reliable and convenient ways, including her introduction of a state constitutional amendment to allow for early voting, which my administration supports strongly; and

WHEREAS, Americans have moved steadily in recent years toward more convenient methods of voting, either by casting their ballots early in person or voting by mail; and

WHEREAS, 24 percent of Americans who voted in 2016 did so by mail, according to the *2016 Survey of the Performance of American Elections* by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and

WHEREAS, at least 22 states have provisions to conduct some elections entirely by mail; Colorado, Oregon and Washington vote only by mail; in California and Arizona, a majority of voters cast their votes by mail in 2016, and California will begin full voting by mail this year; and, in 19 states, a majority of votes were cast prior to Election Day in 2016; and

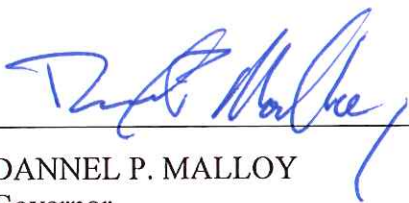
WHEREAS, voting by mail is likely to reduce time spent waiting in voting lines and lower the burdens and costs for local registrars and election workers on Election Day, making it easier for more people to cast their votes with convenience and in privacy;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DANIEL P. MALLOY, Governor of the State of Connecticut, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Connecticut Constitution and by the Statutes of the State of Connecticut do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT**:

1. The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) shall conduct an analysis of the potential methods and requirements to implement voting by mail for all local, state and federal elections in Connecticut; and
2. In conducting such analysis, OPM shall coordinate with, and consider all recommendations and information provided by, the Secretary of the State; and
3. Such analysis shall explore the administrative, technological, legal, security, and fiscal requirements to implement voting by mail and return of mailed ballots by alternate methods; and
4. Such analysis shall include research into options for convenient, reliable, and secure procedures and materials for voting by mail using the best available information on usability, design, and plain language; and
5. Such analysis shall include recommendations and a plan of action and milestones for design, testing, and implementation of a system for voting by mail, including a framework for proposed legislation and administrative changes; and
6. A report on the analysis and the framework for proposed legislation, administrative changes, and any other recommendations shall be provided to my office and to the Secretary of the State no later than September 30, 2018.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut this 7th day of February, 2018.


DANIEL P. MALLOY
Governor

By His Excellency's Order



Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State

