



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

January 12, 2021

The Honorable Ned Lamont
Governor
State of Connecticut
State Capitol
Executive Chambers
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont:

New Milford is working on its municipal budget for next year. Just as we were able to safely vote in November, I am asking that you allow municipalities to have in-person voting, as well as to make absentee ballots available for this year's municipal budget referendums.

Last year, in towns all over Connecticut, voters were not allowed to cast votes on their municipal budgets. This leaves voters disenfranchised, the exact opposite of what our constituencies expect and deserve from us as elected officials. We are selected by our peers to uphold and protect our country's basic core functions, and this must always remain our primary mission as we work to serve the residents of our great state.

I firmly believe in the need for us to work together to tackle the obstacles put forth by the pandemic. In that light, I understand that we must work to minimize the spread of this virus, however, not allowing our voters the opportunity to act on decisions that impact their community and their town finances should not reflect the new normal.

I urge you to reconsider the Executive Orders currently in place and ensure the public has the right to vote on local matters. A decision that would undoubtedly help restore transparency, and the public's faith in our good Government.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I am available to discuss this matter should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

William Buckbee