



State of Connecticut
HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

Secretary Denise Merrill
Secretary of the State
30 Trinity Street
Hartford, CT 06106

July 31, 2020

Dear Secretary Merrill,

We write to you today with growing concern regarding the availability of the absentee ballots for the August 11th primary. We understand that ballots have been mailed out later than planned, and we fear at this late date that there are ballots that have not been sent out to voters.

First, we are seeking verification from your office on 1) which ballots have been sent out, 2) the dates that ballots were mailed, and 3) which ballots, if any, have not been mailed out as of today.

Second, what guidance has your office provided to town clerks on how to address the late distribution of absentee ballots to voters? We are concerned that voters seeking absentee ballots are being told to go to town halls to pick up absentee ballots in person, thereby negating the purpose of allowing voters to vote by mail.

Third, do you intend to provide any financial resources to municipalities to assist in the management of the inevitable inundation of absentee ballots in the days leading up to the primary on August 11th?

Finally, please provide us with a copy of the contract with the mail vendor for the distribution of the absentee ballots.

We recognize that we are in unprecedented times. During this time of uncertainty, we must do our best to ensure that every voter in Connecticut is able to exercise their fundamental right to cast a ballot in the upcoming elections. It is imperative that the process for distributing absentee ballots be transparent to the public.

Sincerely,

Themis Klarides

Representative Themis Klarides

Vincent J Candelora

Representative Vincent Candelora