



Urgent Funding Needed for Reliable Tabulators and Upgrades

Dear Governor Lamont,

In the fast-approaching 2024 national election, Connecticut stands at a pivotal moment. Over the last two legislative sessions, Connecticut made great strides to champion access to the ballot box. Your words, emphasizing the importance of this effort, resound: “improve the ability of voters to cast their ballots and enable more people to participate in our democracy.” However, the progress we've made could be sabotaged by the breakdown of our old and unrepairable tabulators.

Our current tabulators present a critical concern: they are over two decades old, the model is no longer in production, and the scarcity of replacement parts forces election administrators to scrounge for parts on platforms like eBay. The threat of malfunction became a real crisis during the 2021 Primary, when a distressing 50 machines suffered breakdowns and rendered themselves inoperable. Expecting these machines to hold up through a national election season is not prudent. To efficiently, effectively, and securely run elections in the 2024 national election, we need reliable tabulators.

We've made great strides in expanding access to the ballot for all eligible voters in Connecticut. Let's not take the chance that malfunctioning machines sabotage our laudable work.

We urge you to include bonding for tabulators and upgrades to the automatic voter registration system, in compliance with Public Act 21-2, in the September Bonding Commission Meeting agenda. Without timely approval, the intricate processes of selecting, ordering, and training personnel on new tabulators cannot feasibly conclude before the critical November 2024 elections.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We eagerly anticipate your support and action to secure the future of our democracy.

Signed,

League of Women Voters of CT

AARP

ACLU of CT

BPT Gen Now Votes

Denise Merrill

CCAG

Common Cause in CT

CT Shoreline Invisible

CT League of Conservation Voters

The Connecticut Project Action Fund

Safe Vote