



The League of Women Voters of Connecticut has received questions from voters about whether their right to vote might be challenged at the polls on Election Day—Tuesday, November 6. The League wants to reassure registered voters that state law protects voters against threats to their right to vote.

According to state law, any elector (registered voter) in a polling place may challenge another person's right to vote— ***but may not do so frivolously or indiscriminately.*** According to the Secretary of the State Denise Merrill, a person who challenges a voter's eligibility to vote must know, suspect, or reasonably believe that the voter is not who they say they are, does not live where they say they live, or is disenfranchised.

The polling place supervisor—or moderator—decides on the right of the challenged person to vote, by taking testimony under oath from both the challenger and the voter. If the moderator decides against a challenged voter, that voter has the right to cast both a challenged ballot and a provisional ballot.

The League believes that voting should be free of intimidation and conducted as efficiently as possible. Threats of unfounded challenges can slow the voting process and even discourage busy voters from casting a ballot at their polling place. The moderator of a polling place has the authority to remove a person who's disrupting the orderly voting process or interfering with an elector's right to vote.

If any voter believes that they have been a target of an unfounded threat to their right to vote, the League of Women Voters encourages them to contact the State Elections Enforcement Hotline at 866-733-2463 (866-SEEC-INFO) or email elections@ct.gov to report any problems that they observe. On Election Day, the Secretary of the State's office will partner with the CT Bar Association to provide legal assistance with voter complaints at the polls. For more information please visit www.lwvct.org.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy thorough education and advocacy. Membership is open to men and women of all ages