

# Town of Westbrook

## Blight Referendum

**DATE OF REFERENDUM: July 13, 2017**

- . **I am not an elector of the Town of Westbrook.**
- . **I am a citizen of the United States of America.**
- . **I am over 18 years of age.**

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

1. I have real property listed on the **October 1, 2016** Grand List in the Town of Westbrook with an assessed value greater or equal to \$1,000.
2. I have a motor vehicle(s) listed on the **October 1, 2016** Grand List in the Town of Westbrook with an assessed value greater or equal to \$1,000.
3. I have personal property listed on the **October 1, 2016** Grand List in the Town of Westbrook with an assessed value greater or equal to \$1,000.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

(Printed Name): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Westbrook Property Address if different: \_\_\_\_\_

Based on the above information, this person is entitled to vote in this referendum.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Assessor/Assessor's Assistant, Town of Westbrook, CT

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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May 3, 2017

Ms. Joan Angelini  
Town Clerk  
866 Boston Post Road  
Westbrook, CT 06498

Dear Joan,

You have asked me to place in writing my opinion concerning who is eligible to vote at a town meeting or at a referendum to which a town meeting has been adjourned.

The starting point, as always, is Connecticut State Statutes. Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-6 states in pertinent part as follows:

At any town meeting other than a regular or special town election ... any person who is an elector of such town may vote and any citizen of the United States of the age of eighteen years or more who, jointly or severally, is liable to the town, district or subdivision for taxes assessed against him on an assessment of not less than one thousand dollars on the last-completed grand list of such town, district or subdivision, or who would be so liable if not entitled to an exemption under subdivision (17), (19), (22), (23), (25) or (26) of section 12-81, may vote, unless restricted by the provisions of any special act relating to such town, district or subdivision.

Thus, there are two classes of persons who may vote in a town meeting: First, any person who is an elector (meaning a registered voter, see below).

Second, any person who is not an elector but who is (a) a citizen and (b) over the age of 18 years and (c) who is liable to the town for taxes on an assessment on the last-completed grandlist of not less than One Thousand Dollars. (Note it is the assessment, not the taxes, that must equal or exceed One Thousand Dollars).

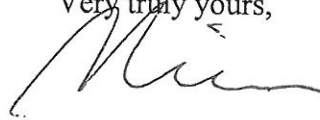
Note the reference in the first sentence of the statute to "other than a regular or special town election." Only electors (registered voters) may vote at a regular or special town election pursuant to CGS Section 9-12 (a), which states

Each citizen of the United States who has attained the age of eighteen years, and who is a bona fide resident of the town to which the citizen applies for admission as an elector shall, on approval by the registrars of voters or town clerk of the town of residence of such citizen, as prescribed by law, be an elector...

There is nothing in the statutes which would permit the town to broaden the franchise to include corporations, limited liability companies, trusts, etc.

I trust this is helpful, and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Wells", written in a cursive style.

Michael J. Wells

mjw/me

Connecticut Statutes

Title 7. MUNICIPALITIES

Chapter 90. TOWN AND OTHER COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Current through the 2016 Regular and First Special Sessions

§ 7-6. Eligibility to vote

At any town meeting other than a regular or special town election or at any meeting of any fire, sewer or school district or any other municipal subdivision of any town incorporated by any special act, any person who is an elector of such town may vote and any citizen of the United States of the age of eighteen years or more who, jointly or severally, is liable to the town, district or subdivision for taxes assessed against him on an assessment of not less than one thousand dollars on the last-completed grand list of such town, district or subdivision, or who would be so liable if not entitled to an exemption under subdivision (17), (19), (22), (23), (25) or (26) of section 12-81, may vote, unless restricted by the provisions of any special act relating to such town, district or subdivision.

Cite as Conn. Gen. Stat. § 7-6

Source:

(1949 Rev., S. 496; 1953, 1955, S. 209d; 1963, P.A. 642, S. 5; 1972, P.A. 127, S. 3; P.A. 02-130, S. 15.)

History. 1963 act corrected erroneous references to subsections of section 12-81 ; 1972 act changed voting age from twenty-one to eighteen; P.A. 02-130 replaced "citizen" with "citizen of the United States", effective May 10, 2002.

Case Notes:

Freehold estate ratable, but not rated, does not qualify. 2 D. 504. Cited. 184 C. 200; 212 C. 338; 234 C. 513.

Cited. 36 CA 584.

Requisite value necessary to vote determined without reference to existence of mortgage on the property; where husband and wife are joint owners, each is entitled to vote if assessed value is not less than \$2,000; history of statute reviewed. 19 CS 234. Cited. 43 CS 297.

Cross References:

See Sec. 9-1 for applicable definitions.

See Sec. 9-360 re penalty for fraudulent voting.

See Sec. 9-365 re employers' threat or punitive action relative to employees' vote.

*12-81 exemptions*

*(17) Blind persons*

*(19) Veterans*

*(22) Surviving spouse or minor child of serviceman of veterans*

*(23) Serviceman's surviving spouse receiving federal benefits*

*(25) Surviving parent of deceased serviceman or veteran*

*(26) Parents of veterans*