



## Office of the Secretary of the State

State of Connecticut  
165 Capitol Avenue, Suite 1000  
P.O. Box 150470, Hartford, CT 06115-0470

**Stephanie Thomas**  
Secretary of the State

**Jennifer D. Barahona**  
Deputy Secretary of the State

January 5, 2026

Legislative Regulation Review Committee  
VIA: eRegulations System  
Attn: Catherine M. Thomas, Administrator  
Rm 011, State Capitol Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Absentee Ballot Drop Box (PR 2025-009)

Dear Sen. Gadkar-Wilcox and Rep. Fishbein and Committee Members;

In accordance with Section 4-170(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Office of the Secretary of the State hereby electronically submits to the Committee, the above-referenced proposed regulation bearing the approval of the Attorney General as to legal sufficiency issued November 6, 2025.

### **Why the Regulation is Being Promulgated**

These regulations involve the procedures for a municipality to follow when using video recording equipment around an absentee ballot drop box. Such a recording is now mandatory in the State of Connecticut and regulations for such use are mandatory under Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 9-140b.

### **Substance of the Regulation**

These new regulations outline procedures for the purchase and use of video and photographic equipment to be used when absentee ballots may be returned to a drop box. The procedures include the placement of the equipment in relation to the drop box, the minimum resolution of the equipment, the ability of the equipment to continue recording during a power outage, a requirement for a date and time stamp, a retention schedule, requirements for the testing of the equipment before use, and a requirement that the images become publicly available. The requirements also make clear that failure to meet any requirement may be addressed in a complaint to the State Elections Enforcement Commission.

Secretary of the State\* 860-509-6200 [sots.ct.gov](https://sots.ct.gov)

Business Services Division 860-509-6002 [bsd@ct.gov](mailto:bsd@ct.gov) Legislation & Election Administration Division 860-509-6100 [lead@ct.gov](mailto:lead@ct.gov)

\*The State of Connecticut is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

## Public Hearing and Comments

No public hearing was scheduled for this proposed regulation. As required by law, the proposed regulation was posted for public comment between April 28, 2025, and May 29, 2025. This office received numerous comments dealing with the public availability of the images, the most appropriate municipal official to have responsibility for the equipment and their ability to designate other individuals to assist, the proximity of the equipment to the drop box, standards for the equipment, and the possibility of extending the timeframe when the law would go into effect. This office gave thoughtful consideration to all comments and changed the regulations to meet these issues when we believed it was possible.

We appreciate the Committee's time and effort on this proposed regulation.

Submitted on behalf of Secretary Stephanie Thomas.

Sincerely,



Lewis Button III

Staff Attorney