



Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC)
516 West Loockerman St., Dover, DE 19904
302-739-4553 (voice) 302-739-6126 (fax) <http://www.gacec.delaware.gov>

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 31, 2025

TO: The Honorable Members of the Delaware General Assembly

FROM: Ann C. Fisher, Chairperson
GACEC

RE: **Senate Bill (SB) No. 2 and Senate Bill (SB) No. 3 Absentee Voting**

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed Senate Bill Nos. 2 and 3. These bills are "the first leg" of constitutional amendments to specifically authorize 1) early, in-person voting for the general election, a primary election, and a special election filling a vacancy in the General Assembly (SB 2) and 2) to eliminate the limitations on when an individual may vote absentee and provide an absolute right to vote by absentee ballot without an excuse (SB 3; often called "no excuse absentee voting"). Council **supports** these proposed pieces of legislation.

Currently the Delaware constitution should be interpreted to allow for early voting and at least permanent absentee voting for voters with qualifying reasons. Having this confirmed via constitutional amendment will not be harmful to the ability of people with disabilities to vote. Also, expanding the absentee ballot to do away with the requirement to have an "excuse" to vote absentee will increase the accessibility of voters with disabilities, which will be a good thing for all citizens of the State of Delaware.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our support of the proposed legislation. Please feel free to contact me or Pam Weir at the GACEC office should you have any questions.