



Doreen DelBianco  
Legislative Program Manager

October 21, 2014

## Let Your Voice Be Heard!

In two weeks, registered voters in Connecticut will have an opportunity to vote for candidates running for public office. The Governor and Lt Governor, various Constitutional Offices (Sec. of State, Comptroller, Attorney General and Treasurer), Congress, State Senate, State Representative and Probate Judge are all be up for election. The ballot will also include the opportunity to vote on Constitutional question regarding changes to voting procedures.

The individuals who ultimately get elected will be making many decisions that can and will impact the lives of persons in recovery, their families, and advocates.

People in many parts of the world still struggle for voting rights. Some individuals even risk their own lives to exercise their right to vote. People are passionate about having their voices heard. The recent vote in Scotland regarding their independence from England saw an 85% voter turnout.

Here in CT, voter turnout in 2012 was 74%. That was a presidential election and those election years are usually higher than other election years. In 2010 the voter turnout was 57%. Our goal should be nothing short of 100%.

In a recent gubernatorial debate mental health issues were discussed. In addition, Mayors and First Selectmen across the state are talking about opioid abuse and drug overdoses! We are getting there, we are making headway, we are on the agenda.

The only way we can keep behavioral health on the agenda of all elected officials is to exercise our right to vote! On November 4<sup>th</sup> let's speak loud and clear by casting our ballots in the name of recovery.

Comments are welcome at [Doreen.delbianco@ct.gov](mailto:Doreen.delbianco@ct.gov)