Modernizing Pennsylvania's Election Process

Bipartisan reforms will help to ensure that all voters can count on 21st century convenience and security at the ballot box

Pennsylvania faced its toughest election ever in 2020 when the state had to implement an entirely new voting system amid record turnout during a global pandemic. The state's historical performance was defined largely by two bipartisan reform laws—Act 77 of 2019 and Act 12 of 2020—that the General Assembly and administration put in place prior to the primary and general elections.

Lawmakers should be proud of the changes they made. But even with those sweeping reforms, Pennsylvania is still behind the vast majority of states when it comes to making sure that all voters—rural, suburban, and urban, as well as Republican, Democrat, and Independent—can count on 21st century convenience and security at the ballot box.

Keeping the will of voters front and center, Pennsylvania once again has an opportunity to make our election system even better by enacting the following reforms:

Improve Vote-by-Mail Process
- Extend **pre-canvassing** to allow counties to begin processing ballots prior to Election Day—pre-canvassing isn't vote counting—and establish a better voter notification process to enable simple mistakes to be fixed and **ensure ballots are completed accurately.**
- Permit mail-in ballots to be counted if they are postmarked by Election Day but **arrive at the county election office after Election Day**.
- Allow the **"National Change of Address Form"** to serve as an update for voter registration and vote by mail.

Modernize Process to Enhance Security, Voter Access
- Allow **early in-person voting** to relieve congestion at polling locations and give voters with challenging work schedules or family situations the chance to choose the time that works best for them.
- Permit **same-day voter registration**, as most residents do not become engaged in elections until the final weeks, when campaigns reach their peak.
- Establish **vote centers**, giving voters the chance to cast a ballot whether they are by their home, job, school or anywhere that is convenient, and relieve county pressure on poll worker recruitment.

Provide Funding to Support Secure, Efficient Operations
- Ensure counties have the funds for **satellite election offices** that provide convenient voter registration services and mail-in and absentee ballot application processing and voting.
- Provide funding to help counties purchase and implement **electronic poll books** to improve election security and accuracy by relying on real-time data.

Please visit www.KeystoneVotes.org for a comprehensive look at our full legislative agenda.