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Coalition Urges Lawmakers to Adopt Same-Day Voter Registration, Authorize Early In-Person Voting with Machines

20 organizations sign on to letter urging action on election reforms

HARRISBURG, Pa. (June 8, 2023) --- A nonpartisan coalition of groups focused on making voting more convenient and easier to access for all eligible voters have signed on to a letter urging Pennsylvania lawmakers to adopt same-day voter registration and authorize early in-person voting using machines.

Twenty groups signed the letter, which is being sent to members of the legislature today. Instead of pushing changes that would make it harder for people to vote, the organizations want lawmakers to refocus on policies that remove barriers.

"The right to vote is the very foundation of our democracy," the letter reads. "(We) firmly believe that democracy works best when all citizens participate and when election rules are nonpartisan. Pennsylvanians should have the opportunity to vote when and where it is easiest for them."

Allowing early in-person voting using machines would relieve congestion at polling locations and give community members with challenging work schedules or family situations the chance to choose the time that works best for them. This also helps senior citizens, especially those who use wheelchairs or walkers, allowing more time to accommodate their needs.

Roughly two-thirds of all states, Red and Blue alike, have some form of early voting.

In the same way that early voting has been adopted broadly, some two dozen states and Washington, D.C., permit qualified residents to register and vote on Election Day.

Same-day voter registration eliminates the state's arbitrary deadline and makes it possible for residents to register when they are most engaged. Same-day voter registration also ensures that all residents have their voices heard by enabling real-time corrections to inaccurate voter rolls. For example, it prevents the disenfranchisement of those who move shortly before an election or who have moved since last updating their voter registration.

For a copy of letter, please visit <https://www.keystonevotes.org/newsroom>, under "Resources."

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