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Early In-Person Voting, Same-Day Registration Should be Priority in Discussions about Meaningful Election Reforms

PITTSBURGH, Pa. (Feb. 2, 2023) --- With some lawmakers focused only on trying to implement new voter ID requirements, whether through a constitutional amendment or separate legislation, the commonwealth is missing out on opportunities to enact meaningful reforms that would modernize the election process and make voting more convenient and easier to access for all eligible Pennsylvania voters, according to the Keystone Votes coalition.

One PA, a coalition member that works to address economic justice and political participation issues, especially among marginalized communities, today submitted testimony to the House Democratic Policy Committee during a public hearing on election reforms in Pittsburgh, urging members to **advance early in-person voting and same-day voter registration measures**.

“We appreciate all the work that lawmakers and the administration are doing to modernize our election process and protect the integrity of a system that already works well and ensures all voices are heard and every vote counts,” One PA co-Executive Director Steve Paul said. “We firmly believe that democracy works best when all citizens participate and when election rules are nonpartisan. Authorizing early in-person voting and same-day voter registration does that.”

“At One PA, we work with Pennsylvania voters before, during, and after every election, and our members continue to hear and see firsthand what voters need,” Paul said. “Despite deep divisions on some policies, there remains the potential for broad agreement on several issues that will help to ensure every voter can freely, easily, and conveniently access the polls to have their voices heard and their votes count. Early in-person voting and same-day voter registration must be part of the mix.”

There is no reason every voter should have to vote on one specific day. Allowing **early in-person voting** 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 is also a great option for seniors, 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.

Likewise, Pennsylvania also should allow **same-day voter registration**. Currently, the District of Columbia and some two dozen states currently permit any qualified resident to register to vote and cast a ballot on Election Day. That's because most citizens become interested and engaged in elections in the final weeks before Election Day, when campaigns reach their peak. Same-day voter registration makes it possible for residents to register when they're most engaged and ensures all residents have their voices heard by enabling real-time corrections to inaccurate voter rolls. With same-day registration, voters can update registration records or register at their polling place before casting their votes.

For a full copy of One PA's testimony, visit <https://www.keystonevotes.org/newsroom>.

One PA is among the 42 advocacy and community organizations comprising the Keystone Votes coalition, one of the state's leading and most respected voices when it comes to modernizing Pennsylvania's elections.

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Keystone Votes is a nonpartisan coalition comprising 42 advocacy and community organizations across the state working to make elections more convenient and easier to access for ALL Pennsylvania voters. More: www.keystonevotes.org.