

Keystone Votes

THE COALITION FOR MODERN ELECTIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Election Reforms Ensure All Eligible Pennsylvanians Can Vote

HARRISBURG (March 26, 2018) – Keystone Votes, a nonpartisan coalition comprising 39 advocacy and community organizations working to update Pennsylvania’s election system, today applauded Gov. Tom Wolf for proposing tested, proven methods that would give voters more choice about when and how to vote and increase voter participation.

The governor’s plan, which includes same-day voter registration, automatic voter registration and modernized absentee ballots, mirrors some of the very same commonsense and nonpartisan policies that Keystone Votes has pushed for since its inception in 2015.

“These are commonsense reforms,” said Ray Murphy, state coordinator for Keystone Votes. “Even though Pennsylvania’s election system works well for many voters, some qualified registrants still face challenges in casting a ballot, like seniors, veterans, voters with disabilities and working people. These are steps we can take right now to ensure all eligible Pennsylvanians can participate in elections.”

The governor’s announcement comes a little more than a month after [his administration issued a Feb. 9 directive](#) for counties, when replacing their electronic voting systems, to buy machines that leave a paper trail to ensure accuracy and safeguard against hacking.

The directive doesn’t require counties to replace machines, but only to switch systems when they do. Nor does the governor’s budget propose any money to help counties that want to abandon aging machines now in favor of new, modern systems.

There is growing bipartisan consensus to modernize elections systems. The recently approved federal budget includes funding to shore up outdated election infrastructure.

Keystone Votes believed that the single most important thing the administration and General Assembly can do is to help all 67 counties buy new, modern and secure voting machines to replace those that are now almost 20 years old, and to support and finance the implementation of improvements such as electronic poll books and updates to database technology that are needed to support modern, secure and accessible elections.

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Keystone Votes, a nonpartisan coalition comprising 39 advocacy and community organizations working to update Pennsylvania’s election system, has been urging the state to start working now on reforms that would modernize the state’s election system, help counties buy modern machines, and update technology to enhance security and accessibility before the 2018 elections. More at www.keystonevotes.org.