

Keystone Votes

THE COALITION FOR MODERN ELECTIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Keystone Votes to Elected Leaders: ‘Trust the Process’

HARRISBURG (Nov. 18, 2020) – Keystone Votes, a nonpartisan coalition comprising 42 organizations that have been working for years to make voting more convenient, more secure and equally accessible for all who are eligible, today urged elected officials to trust the process with respect to audits of Pennsylvania’s election process.

The House State Government Committee is considering a measure (H.R. 1100) that would direct the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to coordinate a risk-limiting audit of ballots canvassed in the 2020 general election. But the [Legislative Budget and Finance Committee](#) is a panel that conducts studies and makes recommendations regarding funding and expenditures, not election policy or administration.

“Audits and accountability are already built into the election code --- and there’s a reason for that,” Keystone Votes coordinator Ray Murphy said. “Audits not only help to preserve the integrity of our election process and reinforce voters’ confidence in the outcomes, but they also potentially can help to identify areas for reforms that further enhance the safety, security and accessibility of our elections. But there is a process in place already, and we need to let that process play out. Any other meddling begins to look partisan and affects voters’ confidence.”

The Department of State already has [declared that it will undertake a risk-limiting audit of the general election](#). The department conducted a successful pilot of the cutting-edge security audit after the primary election. Risk-limiting audits are scientifically designed and highly effective procedures conducted after an election to strengthen election security and integrity, confirm the accuracy of election outcomes, and provide confidence to voters that their votes were counted accurately.

Murphy emphasized that in Pennsylvania, elections are run by county election officials, who take very seriously their responsibilities to protect voters and ensure honest election outcomes --- and that this general election was unprecedented. Voters turned out in near-record numbers --- both

in person and through the mail --- to make their voices heard, despite a global pandemic. [More than 6.9 million Pennsylvania voters cast ballots in the 2020 election.](#)

“We should be commending the men and women who administered our elections, and who continue to work diligently to count every vote,” Murphy said. “There were winners and losers on both sides of the aisle on Nov. 3. While some changes may need to be made after the first full year of vote-by-mail, this was a good, clean election --- one made possible only through the bipartisan leadership of Gov. Tom Wolf, Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman and House Speaker Bryan Cutler.”

The administration and General Assembly worked together in a bipartisan fashion to enact Act 77 of 2019, the most sweeping election reforms in Pennsylvania in decades, allowing a new vote-by-mail option, which proved pivotal in enabling people to exercise their right to vote after the global pandemic created by COVID-19 struck.

For more information, visit www.KeystoneVotes.org.

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Keystone Votes, a nonpartisan coalition comprising 42 civil rights, civil liberties, and good government groups, as well as large civic engagement organizations with members in all 67 counties. The coalition has been working for years to update Pennsylvania’s election system, help counties buy modern machines, and update technology to enhance security and accessibility before the 2020 elections. More at www.keystonevotes.org.