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To Modernize Elections, Establish Vote Centers in Pa. Counties

HARRISBURG (March 25, 2021) – Pennsylvania lags behind the vast majority of states when it comes to making sure voters can count on 21st century convenience and security at the ballot box, according to Keystone Votes, which is urging the commonwealth to modernize its system to allow and establish clear guideline for vote centers.

The House State Government Committee held its sixth in a series of hearings today to review the 2020 elections, focusing on satellite offices and election day administration. The Senate Special Committee on Election Integrity and Reform held its second hearing earlier in the week, looking at the experiences of local elected officials during the 2020 General Election.

“We saw how effective satellite offices were in the 2020 General Election as thousands of voters took advantage of these locations to register to vote, apply for mail-in ballots, fill them out, and return them on site,” **said Ray Murphy, state coordinator for Keystone Votes.** “Voters made clear they like and want safe, secure, new options. It’s time for Pennsylvania to give eligible voters more convenient ways to cast their ballots so every voice is heard and every vote is counted.”

According to Murphy, **vote centers** give voters the chance to safely and securely cast a ballot whether they are by their home, job, school or anywhere that is convenient. Voters can vote at any vote center in their jurisdiction, regardless of their personal residential address. As a bonus, vote centers also would require fewer people to staff an election, relieving much of the pressure election administrators face recruiting poll workers.

“We have an obligation to ensure that everyone can practice the right to vote. For far too long our communities have been disenfranchised from this right. Voting centers are one way to ensure voting is accessible to all,” **said Diana Robinson, Civic Engagement Director from Make the Road Pennsylvania.** “Having multiple avenues for people to vote allows everyone to participate in our democracy. Voting centers can help remove roadblocks that often create obstacles for our communities to vote. Voting should be convenient, accessible, and celebrated!”

Keystone Votes, a nonpartisan coalition comprising 42 civil rights, civil liberties and good government groups working in all 67 counties to modernize Pennsylvania’s election system,

recently unveiled its own comprehensive reform plan to update election laws and implement policy changes that enhance voter engagement and security.

For Keystone Votes' full legislative agenda, please visit www.KeystoneVotes.org.

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Keystone Votes, a nonpartisan coalition comprising 42 advocacy and community organizations across the state, has been urging the commonwealth to implement reforms that would modernize the state's election system and update technology to enhance security and accessibility. More at www.keystonevotes.org.