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## **Pa. Should Embrace Same-Day Voter Registration, e-Poll Books**

*National Change of Address Form can help ensure accuracy of voter files*

**HARRISBURG (March 4, 2021)** – Pennsylvania should embrace same-day voter registration as a way to increase participation when voters are most engaged in the process and ensure that all residents have their voices heard by enabling real-time corrections to inaccurate voter rolls on Election Day, according to Keystone Votes.

With the House State Government Committee today convening its fourth of 12 election-related hearings, with a focus on voter registration, Keystone Votes also urged the commonwealth to allow the “National Change of Address Form” to serve as an update for voter registration and vote by mail to help ensure voter files are accurate and up to date.

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.

Same-day voter registration is among the priorities to modernize Pennsylvania’s elections.

“Most citizens become interested and engaged in elections in the final weeks before Election Day, when campaigns reach their peak,” said Ray Murphy, state coordinator for Keystone Votes. “Campaigns know this, which is why during those final weeks before an election, voters are flooded with ads, phone calls and door-knocking. If we are sincere about wanting to provide secure, accessible and fair elections for all citizens who want to exercise their right to vote, then we have to remove barriers that prevent them from participating when interest is at its peak.”

Under Act 77 of 2019, Pennsylvania lawmakers changed the deadline for voters to register to vote or update their registration from 30 days to 15 days before an election in order to participate in that election. That bipartisan reform, which was championed by a Republican-controlled General Assembly and Democratic administration, was a big step forward but more can be done.

With same-day registration, voters can update registration records or register at their polling place before casting their votes. And with electronic poll books, or e-poll books, election officials can review and maintain voter register information with ease on site for any election, relying on real-time data. The technology ensures this process is convenient, seamless and secure.

More than 20 states --- Red and Blue alike --- and the District of Columbia already have some form of same-day voter registration, and many of these states incorporate the use e-poll books to ensure a smooth, secure process.

E-poll books save counties time and money, provide greater assistance to voters, and improve accuracy by reducing human error and enhancing Election Day guidance and support for poll workers. They are not used to count votes.

In addition to same-day registration and e-poll books, the “National Change of Address Form” is another resource to enhance elections and clean up voter files.

When a person moves, they submit a change of address form to the post office, which updates their address in the National Change of Address database and mail is able to be forwarded to the correct address once the individual has moved. Streamlining this process with voter registration and vote by mail would ensure records are up to date and elections are more secure.

As part of his proposed 2021-22 General Fund budget presentation, Gov. Tom Wolf unveiled his legislative agenda for the current two-year session, calling for additional election reforms, including same-day voter registration and funding to help counties purchase and implement equipment such as e-poll books.

The House State Government Committee hearing will review last year’s general election to recommend potential policy changes. The Senate is conducting its own review with its Special Committee on Election Integrity and Reform.

The Pennsylvania Election Law Advisory Board, established under Act 12 of 2020, convened its first meeting in February to make recommendations to the General Assembly about ways to improve the election process.

For the full legislative agenda, please visit [www.KeystoneVotes.org](http://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](http://www.keystonevotes.org).***