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## **Keystone Votes Urges Lawmakers to Enact Policies that Enhance Election Security, Boost Integrity**

**HARRISBURG (Sept. 21, 2021)** --- Members of the nonpartisan Keystone Votes coalition, one of the state's leading and most respected voices when it comes to modernizing Pennsylvania's election process, today urged lawmakers to refocus their energy on real reform measures if they truly want to enhance election security and boost integrity of the process.

With the fall legislative session, both the House and Senate have plans to advance election reform proposals, as early as next week.

There remains broad bipartisan agreement on several issues, but little was accomplished over the summer, as the policy debate largely stalled. That could have serious implications on how the next elections are run and how Pennsylvanians access their polling places and cast their ballots.

"Pennsylvania lags behind most states when it comes to making sure voters can count on 21st century convenience and security at the ballot box. We need to do more --- much more --- to modernize our elections. And we need to act quickly," said **Ray Murphy, State Coordinator of Keystone Votes**, which comprises 42 civil rights, civil liberties and good government groups working on election modernization in all 67 counties.

The nonpartisan Keystone Votes coalition continues to push for real reforms that modernize elections and make voting more convenient, more secure, and accessible to all, especially for communities of color, which turned out in record numbers during the 2020 general election but now face potential restrictions, such as voter ID, that could limit their freedoms.

Among some of the policies that lawmakers need to consider before the next election:

- **Same-day voter registration.** Same-day voter registration eliminates the state's arbitrary deadline and makes it possible for residents to register when they're most engaged. Same-day voter registration also ensures that all residents have their voices heard by enabling real-time corrections to inaccurate voter rolls.
- **Early in-person voting.** There's 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 voters with challenging work schedules or family situations the chance to choose the time that works best for them.

- **Funding for safe, secure, efficient elections.** The state needs to increase poll worker pay and provide more resources for county election operations so that they can purchase and implement electronic poll books to improve election security and accuracy by relying on real-time data.

“It’s time for decisive action on real election reforms that protect our freedoms and guarantee the rights of every resident to have their voice heard and their vote counted,” Murphy said.

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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).*