



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ray Murphy
P: 215-847-2503
E: rmurphy@pavoice.org

Keystone Votes Responds to H.B. 1300

HARRISBURG (June 10, 2021) – 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, today issued the following statement regarding legislation (H.B. 1300) that House Republicans unveiled in response to the series of hearings convened earlier this year to examine the state’s election laws:

“Legislative hearings proved that there is bipartisan consensus on pre-canvassing and potential agreement across the aisle to get counties the technology they need, like electronic poll books, which improve both convenience and safety for voters. That’s where our attention should be,” said Ray Murphy, state coordinator for Keystone Votes.

“It’s disappointing that proven reforms like same-day voter registration are excluded from this proposal, and it’s troubling that measures like Voter ID, which would erect even more barriers to our freedom to vote, are included. The push to roll back the voter registration deadline is worrisome and most certainly will disenfranchise voters. In 2020, within the 15-day period that this bill would cut, there were 12,755 Democrats and 18,583 Republicans who registered for the first time,” Murphy said.

“Democracy works best when all citizens participate and when election rules are nonpartisan. Keystone Votes represents the voice of voters in Pennsylvania, and all of us in the coalition are committed to making sure their vote counts and their voices are heard,” Murphy said.

Several of the measures included in House Bill 1300 mirror elements in the legislative blueprint that Keystone Votes unveiled earlier this year. Among its recommendations:

- **Improve Vote-by-Mail:** Defend against rollbacks to vote-by-mail; push for earlier pre-canvassing, voter notification of ballot accuracy, and counting ballots postmarked by Election Day; and allow the “National Change of Address Form” to help with registration updates.

- **Modernize Process to Enhance Safety, Voter Access:** Allow early in-person voting, same-day voter registration and the establishment of vote centers.
- **Provide Funding to Support Safe, Efficient Operations:** Ensure counties have the funds they need for satellite election offices and electronic poll books.

Keystone Votes, one of the state’s leading and most respected voices when it comes to modernizing Pennsylvania’s election process, presented a legislative roadmap to help lawmakers ensure safe, transparent elections that are accessible to all eligible voters. For the full legislative agenda, please visit www.KeystoneVotes.org.

* * * * *

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.