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Keystone Votes Welcomes Acting DOS Sec. Degraffenreid

HARRISBURG (February 8, 2021) – With Veronica Degraffenreid officially beginning her first day as acting secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of State, the Keystone Votes coalition offered its support to help the commonwealth continue with bipartisan reforms that will modernize the state’s election process to ensure voting remains safe, secure, fair and accessible to all.

“All of us look forward to working with acting Secretary Degraffenreid to build on the progress our commonwealth has already made in the way of election reforms,” said Ray Murphy, state coordinator for Keystone Votes, a nonpartisan coalition comprising 42 civil rights, civil liberties, and good government groups working in all 67 counties.

“For as much as we’ve accomplished, there is still plenty to do to make our election system even better and finally catch up with other states that already provide voters with 21st century convenience and security at the ballot box,” Murphy said.

Degraffenreid was nominated last week by Gov. Tom Wolf. She requires Senate confirmation.

As part of his proposed 2021-22 General Fund budget presentation, the governor also unveiled his legislative agenda for the two-year session, calling for additional election reforms, including same-day voter registration and funding to help counties purchase and implement electronic poll books --- two issues that have been part of Keystone Votes’ long-term agenda.

Degraffenreid replaces outgoing secretary Kathy Boockvar, who oversaw the agency as the state worked in a bipartisan fashion to craft and implement Act 77 of 2019 and Act 12 of 2020, the most sweeping election reforms the commonwealth has adopted in 80 years.

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Keystone Votes, a nonpartisan coalition comprising 42 advocacy and community organizations working to update Pennsylvania’s election system, has been urging the state to start working now on reforms that would modernize the state’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.