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Time for Pa. to Adopt Same-Day Voter Registration & Authorize Early In-Person Voting with Machines

The right to vote is the very foundation of our democracy. Instead of pushing changes that would make it harder for people to vote, the General Assembly should embrace election reforms that make voting more convenient and easier to access for all eligible voters in our communities. **That is why it is time for Pennsylvania to adopt same-day voter registration and authorize early in-person voting using machines.**

Early in-person voting on a machine would relieve congestion at polling locations on Election Day and give community members more voting options that better accommodate their varied or challenging work and family schedules. Early in-person voting also helps older voters and those using wheelchairs or walkers, as it reduces the likelihood of long lines and crowds, which can be complicating factors for those with particular health and mobility needs. Polling consistently shows that long lines are a primary anxiety for many Pennsylvania voters.

Roughly two-thirds of all states, Red and Blue alike, have some form of early voting, which is distinct from the ability to vote by mail in person in advance of the election. In the same way that early voting has been adopted broadly, some two dozen states and Washington, D.C., already permit any qualified resident to register to vote and cast a ballot on Election Day.

Most citizens become interested and engaged in elections in the final weeks before Election Day, when campaigns reach their peak. Campaigns know this, which is why during those final weeks before an election, voters are flooded with ads, phone calls and door-knocking. But for some, this engagement comes after the current voter registration deadline.

Same-day voter registration eliminates the state's arbitrary deadline and makes it possible for residents to register when they are most engaged. Same-day voter registration also ensures that all residents have their voices heard by enabling real-time corrections to inaccurate voter rolls. For example, it prevents the disenfranchisement of those who move shortly before an election or who have moved since last updating their voter registration.

Both same-day voter registration and early in-person voting using machines have proven to be secure and effective in the states where they have been employed. Moreover, both would make voting more convenient and easier to access for all eligible voters in our communities.

All of the undersigned organizations firmly believe that democracy works best when all citizens participate and when election rules are nonpartisan, which is why all of us support same-day voter registration and early in-person voting using machines. Pennsylvanians should have the opportunity to vote when and where it is easiest for them. We look forward to working with the General Assembly to advance these important reforms.

SINCERELY,

