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Keystone Votes Urges Lawmakers to Focus on Reforms that Make Voting Easier, More Convenient for Eligible Voters

HARRISBURG (March 31, 2022) --- One of the state's leading and most respected voices when it comes to modernizing Pennsylvania's elections wants lawmakers to advance bipartisan reform measures that would make the commonwealth's election process more convenient and easier to access for every eligible voter, especially communities of color.

The Senate Intergovernmental Operations Committee held a public hearing today to examine the use of drop boxes where voters can return ballots. The hearing included testimony that continues to perpetuate unfounded allegations of voter fraud in the 2020 general election, even though multiple independent official post-election reviews and dozens of bipartisan judges have verified the outcome of that election.

"Instead of talking about these deep divisions, lawmakers instead should be talking about what residents and nonpartisan election experts agree on, and that's making voting convenient and easier to access for every eligible voter to ensure their voices are heard and their votes are counted," said Olyvia Armstrong, voting access campaign manager for Keystone Votes.

Keystone Votes is urging lawmakers to turn their attention to the coming elections and work on commonsense reforms that include the following:

- **Same-day voter registration.** 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.
- **Early in-person voting.** There is 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 provide more resources for county election operations so they can purchase and implement electronic poll books to improve security and accuracy by relying on real-time data and increase poll worker pay.
- **Automatic voter registration.** Through simple, technical enhancements to existing databases, the state should streamline efforts so eligible residents who interact with government programs or agencies can register to vote online or have their existing registration information updated automatically, unless they actively decline.
- **Improving language access.** Pennsylvania's strength is its diversity. The state must establish and expand best practices for language access in counties that are _not_ under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act to serve the growing number of residents whose first language not English and/or who have a lower proficiency in English.

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Keystone Votes is a nonpartisan coalition comprising 42 advocacy and community organizations across the state working to make elections more convenient and easier to access for ALL Pennsylvania voters. More: www.keystonevotes.org.