Changes Are Coming to Our Pennsylvania Election Laws

Senator Doug Mastriano, Pennsylvania 33rd Legislative District

After eight decades, comprehensive changes are coming to our state’s election laws. The Pennsylvania Senate recently approved an electoral reform package - Senate Bill 421 - that will modernize the way Commonwealth residents cast their votes. It will also provide $90 million in much needed funding to replace county voting machines, boost election security and ensure that local taxpayers do not pick up the tab for the required upgrades. Governor Wolf recently signed the measure into law.

Among the bill’s provisions, the legislation eliminates the antiquated practice of straight-party voting, something that 40 states have already done. This encourages voters to consider individual candidates based on merit (not solely on their political affiliation), empower third-party and independent candidates, and diminish the impact of political polarization in our elections.

Please see Election Laws on page 2

Adams County October Take Back Program - A Tremendous Success

US Drug Enforcement Administration, State & Local Police Departments

The Adams County Medicine Take Back Program provides a safe, convenient, and anonymous means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse and medications.

On October 26th 787 Adams County residents disposed approximately 1,360 lbs. of expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medications.

Please see Take Back Success on page 2
Other changes include:

- Extending the deadline for voters to submit an absentee ballot, from the Friday before Election Day until 8 p.m. on Election Day;
- Pushing back the voter registration deadline from 30 days before an election to 15 days;
- Allowing voters to request and submit an absentee ballot by mail without providing a reason; and
- Creating a permanent mail-in voter list.

The comprehensive package will make it easier for all residents to participate in the election process. Commonwealth citizens deserve an election system that is fair, accessible and efficient. The changes made by the legislature will promote a stronger electoral system in which every voter can be certain that their vote counts, without creating any unnecessary delays or barriers to exercise their right to vote.

As always, please don’t hesitate to contact me regarding any state-level issue, concern or legislation. I can be contacted by phone at any of my four offices (Capitol: 717.787.4651; Adams County: 717.334.4169; Franklin County: 717.264.6100; Hanover: 717.632.1153) or by email at senator-doug@pasen.gov.

Take Back Success on page 1

Biglerville

Biglerville Borough Police
178 lbs. * 134 Disposers * 10 Volunteers

Littlestown

Littlestown Borough Police
110 lbs. * 134 Disposers * 6 Volunteers

Carroll Valley

Carroll Valley Borough Police
244.5 lbs. * 82 Disposers * 7 Volunteers

McSherrystown

McSherrystown Borough Police
98.4 lbs. 65 Disposers * 5 Volunteers

Gettysburg

Gettysburg Borough Police & Cumberland Township Police
298 lbs. * 148 Disposers * 5 Volunteers

New Oxford

Eastern Adams Regional Police
251 lbs. * 77 Disposers * 5 Volunteers

Hanover

Conewago Township Police
82 lbs. * 72 Disposers * 4 Volunteers

York Springs

Latimore Township Police & East Berlin Borough Police
98.4 lbs. * 75 Disposers * 9 Volunteers
Newly Elected Municipal Officials Training

The Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs (PSAB) has extended member rates to all non-member Adams County Township Officials for their 2020 Newly Elected Municipal Officials (NEMO) training scheduled for **January 24 - 25, 2020** in Gettysburg, when they sign up through the ACBA. Member boroughs of the Adams County Boroughs Association (ACBA) will receive an additional discount off the member rate for each municipal official that attends this training class through the ACBA sign-up.

This two-day interactive course reviews the basics of your office’s responsibility and the structure of your local government. The event will be held at Wyndham Hotel at 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg. The facilitator for this course is our very own local Adams County Carroll Valley Borough Manager, Dave Hazlett. Below is the agenda for the two-day Boot Camp.

**Day One Agenda**
- Meeting Procedures
- Sunshine Law
- Managing Public Comment
- Committee and Boards
- Ordinances and Resolutions
- Bidding Requirements
- Fire and Police
- Personnel Management

**Day Two Agenda**
- Intro to Municipal Budgeting
- Taxation
- Basic Planning and Zoning
- Risk Management
- Public Works
- Code Administration

In order to qualify for these special rates, you **MUST** sign up through the Adams County Boroughs Association (do not send your check to the PSAB directly).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate Type</th>
<th>Regular Rate</th>
<th>ACBA Rate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Member Regular</td>
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<td>$155 per person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>$135 per person</td>
<td>$120 per person</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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There will be a lot of demand as we already have officials signing up, so all class seats will be “**first come, first served**”. These special discounted rates are a direct result of the good rapport established with the PSAB. Contact ACBA Vice-President David Bolton at Abbottstown@comcast.net for more information.
Collection of Adams County Classroom Training Needs

During the Adams Council of Governments (ACCOG) meeting of September 26th, the ACCOG Collaboration Committee presented to the membership a spreadsheet of classroom training provided by both the Pennsylvania State Township Association Supervisors (PSATS) and the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB). This spreadsheet listed the trainings in alphabetic order, in which each course was assigned a sort number (1 thru 50). Also provided was a recommendation on who should attend by municipality role. At this time of year, the municipalities are in the process of preparing their 2020 budget. The ACCOG Collaboration committee realizes that municipality elected officials, supervisors and managers strive to provide their employees the training needed to enhance their job performance. However, sometimes the expense associated with attending the course impacts the municipality’s budget bottom line.

The committee believes if the Adams County municipalities can document the demand/need for the classroom training course across townships and boroughs, we may be able to have a positive effect on: (1) course location and (2) the cost to attend. To accomplish this goal in 2020, the ACCOG Collaboration Committee asks you, the municipality, to document the trainings you would like to see your elected officials, supervisors, managers and employees to attend in 2020 in Adams County.

An email containing the spreadsheet and instructions on how to document the training need was sent to the 34 municipalities on September 30th. However, given the low response, as chair of the committee, I would like to offer again an opportunity to document your training needs. If you have not responded to the earlier communique or do not have a copy of the Training Spreadsheet, please email me at MayorRonHarris@comcast.net. When you reply, you only have to document the course number (1–50). If you know how many will attend, place the number in parentheses. For example, 4(2) means course number 4 and it is estimated that 2 will attend.

Thank you for your patience. Hope to hear from you. Training is the key to the success of serving our Adams County Community.

Happy Thanksgiving!