



FILE COPY

General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

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Executive Committee

September 28, 2023

Senate Members

Kim L. Ward
President Pro Tempore
Joseph A. Pittman
Majority Leader
Jay Costa, Jr.
Minority Leader
Ryan P. Aument
Majority Whip
Christine M. Tartaglione
Minority Whip
Kristin Phillips-Hill
Chair, Majority Caucus
Wayne D. Fontana
Chair, Minority Caucus

To:

President Pro Tempore, Sen. Kim Ward
Senate Majority Leader, Sen. Joseph Pittman
Senate Minority Leader, Sen. Jay Costa, Jr.

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rep. Joanna McClinton
House Majority Leader, Rep. Matthew Bradford
House Republican Leader, Rep. Bryan Cutler

Dear Leaders:

The Election Law Advisory Board wishes express its reservations with the ongoing legislative discussion about changing the date of the 2024 Primary Election.

The Board's principal concern with this date change for 2024 is the impact it would have on Pennsylvania's county election boards and administrations. Enacting this change now would give counties fewer than six months to prepare for the election. In many instances, contracts to reserve polling places are made a year in advance. Clerks, inspectors, and volunteers have already been recruited and planned their schedules around the anticipated primary date. Furthermore, schools that serve as polling places have already scheduled days off so that the students are not on the premises when the building is open to the public.

In general, the Board would advise that if an election date is to be changed, it be done at least a year before the election. In the present circumstance, the Board urges the General Assembly to act expeditiously. Each passing day without a certain date will impact the ability to secure polling locations and workers.

The motion to authorize sending this letter received the unanimous consent of the members present at the Board's September 22, 2023 meeting except for three abstentions: the representatives of the two senators who are members of the board, and the representative of the Department of State.

Thank you for your consideration of the Board's recommendation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn J. Pasewicz
Executive Director

cc:

Pa Election Law Advisory Board: Commissioner Kenneth Lawrence, Jr., Chair and Commissioner Joseph Kantz, Vice-Chair
Senate State Government Committee: Senator Cris Dush, Chair and Senator Amanda Cappelletti, Minority Chair
House State Government Committee: Representative Scott Conklin, Chair and Representative Brad Roae, Republican Chair