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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Scott Conklin

DATE: January 4, 2011

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship Legislation – Open Primaries for Municipal Candidates
Former House Bill 1034 of 2009-2010

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that would permit registered electors not registered with either the Democrat or Republican Party to vote in a primary election for certain judges and municipal candidates.

Specifically, this legislation amends the Pennsylvania Election Code and states that a registered elector who is not a member of a Major Party (Democrat or Republican) will be allowed to vote in a primary election for judge of a court of common pleas, the Philadelphia Municipal Court or the Traffic Court of Philadelphia, or for the office of school director and magisterial district judge in a district where that office is elected. In order to vote, the person must choose the ballot of a party. I am offering this legislation to provide electors registered as an independent the opportunity to choose a party for the primary election and vote for municipal candidates because I think it is important that everyone qualified has the right to vote in primary elections.

Please join me in co-sponsoring this legislation by contacting Suzanne Chadwick in my office at 787-9473 or schadwic@pahouse.net.