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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM:

DATE: MARCH 1, 2011

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FROM: Representative Scott Conklin

SUBJECT: CO-SPONSORHIP – ADVANCED VOTING

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that would amend the Pennsylvania Election Code to allow for advanced voting and the creation of an advisory committee, which would oversee the implementation of the new voting procedures within the Commonwealth.

Since the 2009 General Election, voter turnout numbers have dwindled throughout the United States. One of the most important rights that Americans enjoy is the right to vote. While the Commonwealth does its best to make accommodations for all voters, many individuals find it difficult to do their civic duty with only one day to vote. As such, voters tend to turnout in smaller numbers and forfeit their right to vote. My legislation provides a solution in the form of advanced voting. Advanced voting will permit electors to vote at designated polling places within their election district no more than ten days prior to an election. Also, advanced voting will assist in alleviating many of the Election Day problems including extended wait times at polling locations.. Furthermore, my legislation creates the Advance Voting Implementation Advisory Committee. This committee will be responsible in recommending the formulation of standards used in implementing, executing, and overseeing advance voting to the Pennsylvania Department of State.

Currently, 31 states and the District of Columbia allow registered voters to cast a ballot prior to their scheduled election day. Please join me in making Pennsylvania the 32nd state to allow voters greater access to the polls through an extended period of time.

If you would like to co-sponsor this important piece of legislation, please contact Jim Moser via- e-mail at Jmoser@pahouse.net.