



2025 All Voting is Local Pro-Voter Agenda: Pennsylvania

Our Vision for the Future of Voting in the Keystone State

All Voting is Local Pennsylvania

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Table of Contents

Introduction	p. 3
<hr/>	
Who We Are	p. 5
<hr/>	
Voter Registration Practices & Policies	p. 6
<hr/>	
Voting Methods, Opportunities, & Policies	p. 8
<hr/>	
Vote Count & Post-Vote Procedures	p. 14
<hr/>	
Conclusion	p. 16
<hr/>	
Appendix	p. 17
<hr/>	

Introduction

Pennsylvania's elections over the past decade have been defined by political maneuvers that have restricted voter access to the ballot box and a growing surge of election deniers who have tried to strip basic voting rights away from Pennsylvanians. But voters in the Keystone State have remained resilient and continue casting their ballots in record numbers despite these challenges created by their representatives.

All Voting Pennsylvania is committed to modernizing the Commonwealth's election system by advocating for accessible voting methods that voters want and commonsense election administration reforms that our election officials need.

Since our country's founding, the structure of our democracy has been intentionally designed—and actively maintained—to exclude people from participating fully, especially people of color and other marginalized communities. At All Voting is Local, our north star is a democracy that brings people in, instead of one built on the notion that people should be kept out—bold by design because we aim to transform the systems that govern our democracy to include everyone. This commitment to building an inclusive, accessible, and equitable democracy drives both our long-term vision and our day-to-day work.

That's why we've launched All Voting is Local's National and State Pro-Voter Agendas—a long-term affirmative vision for voting that calls on state and local election officials to use the broad authority they already have to expand access to the ballot. The Pro-Voter Agenda was created as a tool to be implemented by those decision-makers while centering Black, Brown, Native American, and other historically marginalized communities.

Our agenda outlines actionable solutions to ensure the following:

- Every American can get on the rolls and stay on the rolls.
- Every American can vote when, where, and how it works for them—in under 30 minutes.
- Partisan interference in vote counting and certification is stopped.

The path forward requires vigilance and action. We must resist anti-voter laws, support election officials (and push back on them when necessary), and advocate for policies that make it easier—not harder—for every voter to participate in our democracy. The stakes couldn't be higher. The fight for voting rights is not a relic of the past—it's a fight for our future.

The power of American democracy lies in the hands of the people—and the officials who are responsible for ensuring the voice of the people is heard through free and fair elections. As

All Voting continues advocating for policies that expand access to the ballot, this agenda will serve to clearly and accurately define our positions and our priorities—across our eight states and across the country.

—Hannah Fried, Executive Director, All Voting is Local (Spring 2025)

Who We Are

All Voting is Local (“All Voting”) is a nonpartisan organization that fights on the ground in eight states for free and fair elections. In a moment of unprecedented threat to our democracy, All Voting advocates state and local officials for policies and practices that ensure the American people choose their leaders, not the other way around.

All Voting works year-round with our partners to prevent partisan interference in our elections, advance fair and inclusive rules on voter registration, and remove barriers that make it more difficult for people to vote—particularly for Black, Brown, Native American, and other historically marginalized communities. As a multistate organization with a national presence and resources, we build connections between state and national advocacy groups so that local voices and perspectives inform the national conversation around voter access.

All Voting is Local is on the ground in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. During the 2024 cycle, All Voting programs expanded access for over 13 million voters.

Voter Registration Practices & Policies

Every American can get on the rolls & stay on the rolls

Automatic Voter Registration (AVR)

All Voting PA believes in easy and accessible voter registration by mail, online, or in person, through all federal, state, and local government agencies, such as the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Eligible voters should be automatically included in the state's registration rolls whenever they conduct a qualified transaction, known as "front-end" AVR, at a federal, state, or local government office unless they affirmatively request to opt out, providing a quick and easy way to register voters proactively. All Voting also supports "back-end" AVR, where government agencies share information voters transact in their respective systems to state election officials through secured and encrypted means. This allows a voter's registration to update in near real time. The voter does not need to confirm the change at the time of the transaction; instead, a notification is sent that allows them to confirm the changes.

Same-Day Voter Registration

All Voting PA believes that voters should be able to update their registration information and/or register at all times, while allowing the choice to vote in person at the polls during early voting or on Election Day. Voters should be able to do so without additional ID requirements, so long as the voter affirms, by signature, their identity and place of residence. Voters should not be required to register at their

local election offices and then return to the polling place to vote, as that unnecessary burden would lead to voter attrition.

Responsible List Maintenance

All Voting PA supports responsible voter list maintenance done well in advance of an election and in alignment with the requirements of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA). Responsible list maintenance requires that jurisdictions take into account all relevant information that might indicate that a voter's eligibility has changed and to notify voters of those changes before any actions are taken to remove eligibility. Appropriate list maintenance ensures voters get accurate information about voting, such as where to vote and who is on their ballot, and it can insulate [voters from challenges to their eligibility by a third party.](#)

Fighting For Student Voters

All Voting PA is committed to practices and policies that support students registering to vote accessibly. Counties should work with universities, the Department of State, and voter registration organizations to register all students without delay or additional administrative burden.

Voting Methods, Opportunities, & Policies

Every American can vote when, where, & how it works for them—in under 30 minutes

Expanded Language Access

All Voting believes every voter should have equitable access to the polls, regardless of the language they speak. Consistent with the Voting Rights Act, if a jurisdiction reaches a threshold of 5% or 10,000 people speaking a covered primary language other than English, election officials are required to provide voter education and voting process translation without delay. We believe those with both limited English proficiency and/or the inability to read or write must also receive additional levels of support, separate from expanded language access, through accessibility provisions that allow for telephonic and other levels of assistance, which are not currently provided uniformly throughout the voting process. Speaking a language other than English, or not having proficiency in English, should not be a barrier to accessing the ballot. Support should be provided, or accessible, for voters where there is a need for language assistance.

All Voting PA is proud to have worked with the Department of State to produce voting resources and forms in more than 20 languages. We believe that all counties should make those resources available to voters.

Use of Paper Ballots

All Voting believes that a paper record of each ballot ensures the most reliable and replicable election results. We believe hand-marked paper ballots are the best method for recording votes, securing our elections, and accurately reflecting the will of the voters in every race. Paper ballots are widely recognized by experts as one of the most important election security measures that states can adopt. All Voting supports the availability of ballot marking or other devices so that all voters, regardless of physical ability, can cast their ballot privately and independently. When selections are recorded on paper, voters can easily verify that their ballot accurately reflects their choices. Paper ballots also facilitate post-election risk-limiting audits, where election workers can check the paper records against electronic vote totals to confirm that voting machines are working as intended. All polling locations that use electronic voting machines should be required to have a supply of backup paper ballots, amounting to 20% of voters in each precinct, in case of a technological issue with their machines.

Expanded Access for Voters With Disabilities

All Voting supports ample and accessible opportunities for everyone to register and/or vote, regardless of physical ability. The assistance provided for in-person registration options and the designated voting and/or registering locations must comply with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). The Americans with Disabilities Act, the Voting Rights Act, and other federal laws have provided important protections for accessible voting and can be strengthened and built upon with policies, including but not limited to these:

- Wherever applicable, online registration and election websites should meet accessibility standards to help disabled voters find the information they need to register.
- The Help America Vote Act's (HAVA) requirement for one accessible voting machine at each voting location is the bare minimum. Election offices should be aware of needs in their community and make plans accordingly to ensure voters who need to utilize accessible voting machines do not have longer wait times or greater burdens than other voters.

- Voting sites should be pretested for potential barriers for voters with disabilities.
- Increased poll worker training around voting with a disability should be provided to ensure that disabled voters are permitted to have privacy while voting and bring an allowed person to assist them in the voting process.
- Barriers to voting by mail should be reduced by allowing caretakers, family members, or other individuals to assist with and return ballots.

Early Voting

All Voting believes early, in-person voting should run for at least two weeks before Election Day, including weekend and before/after work hour availability, to ensure voters have ample opportunity to participate in our democracy without sacrificing their other responsibilities, such as jobs and child care. Voters should have multiple options for voting early in person across their communities—such as at locations near centers for work, recreation, education, and worship—to ensure their vote can be cast conveniently.

Voting by Mail

All Voting believes all voters should be able to vote by mail to ensure voters have ample opportunity to vote in a manner that is safe and accessible for them. A robust vote-by-mail program will include the following:

- All voters, regardless of county, should be allowed to return completed ballots through accessible and secure methods. This may include returning their ballot in person to election officials, at a drop box or voting location, by mail, or through delivery by a family member/household member/other third party.
- Election offices should be required to mail a vote-by-mail ballot within two days of receipt of the ballot request.
- A vote-by-mail mail policy should include strong opportunities to amend any errors on a ballot (i.e., to “cure” the ballot).

- Election offices should provide pre-paid postage for ballots.
- Election offices should accept and count ballots that have been postmarked by election day, rather than having a requirement that ballots be received by election day.

Equitable Voting Access for Justice-Impacted Voters

All Voting believes all current or formerly incarcerated individuals should retain their right to register and vote. While jailed or incarcerated, voters should have access to accurate and up-to-date information on upcoming elections, voter registration processes, ways to get a ballot, and access to voting. All Voting supports voting by mail from jail, as well as the placement of polling locations in detention centers and the dissemination of voting guides and poll books inside of jails for direct use by people currently incarcerated and those administering the voting methods. We also recommend having jails designated as voter registration agencies under the National Voter Registration Act, and upon entering custody, having voter registration provided and/or allowing incarcerated persons to copy their relevant ID numbers so that they can include that in any future voter registration paperwork. All Voting believes all eligible citizens should remain enfranchised voters regardless of whether they are or have been incarcerated. Formerly incarcerated individuals should not lose their voter registration status or ability to vote due to a criminal conviction.

Accessible and Well-Resourced Voting Locations

All Voting believes all voters should be able to easily access and cast a ballot in person at an early voting site, election day polling location, or vote center. Election offices should have standards that ensure they have adequate and accessible voting locations, parking, signage, provisional ballots, machines, and poll workers to smoothly administer their elections and support voters, including those with disabilities. This will require continued assessment.

- Voters should be able to cast their ballot within 30 minutes of arriving at their voting location.
- Voting locations should be accessible by public transit (where available).
- An estimated 21.3 million eligible voters have a disability that affects mobility. Voting locations should be accessible to all voters and be free of impediments that may make it difficult for a voter to access the ballot.
- Voting locations should offer curbside voting and include adequate equipment and support for voters with disabilities. Administrators should, at minimum, comply with federal law, which requires at least one accessible machine at each polling place.

Protections for Voters

All Voting believes all voters should feel comfortable when casting a ballot via whatever method they choose and be able to do so free from intimidation. Federal regulations such as the Voting Rights Act and Civil Rights Act of 1965 protect against intimidation, and states can enforce and strengthen these regulations to ensure all voters feel safe, whether putting their ballot in a drop box or going to a voting site. Election offices should enforce and strengthen regulations that protect voters from intimidation by poll watchers, state and local law enforcement, or anti-democracy groups.

Voters should also be protected from unwarranted challenges to their eligibility and, if removed from the rolls, should be given ample notice and enough time to reregister ahead of any upcoming elections. The influx of citizen-led mass voter challenges is part of a widespread effort to undermine confidence in elections. These challenges are being used to bog down local election offices with a high volume of erroneous challenges on voters' eligibility, and they take away resources and valuable time from election officials.

All Voting PA has consistently fought to protect voters in the state from these harmful mass challenges and won.

Election Official and Election Worker Protections

All Voting believes that since we entrust election officials to uphold our democratic systems, in turn, they should be able to trust that they can do so safely and without fear, intimidation, or threats of violence. In recent years, election officials, staff, and poll workers have been subjected to threats, accusations of crime, and leaked private information (doxing) at historically high rates. As a result, some counties in PA have enacted legislation specifically to protect election officials, staff, and poll workers, but those policies have not extended across the Commonwealth.

Vote Count & Post-Vote Procedures

Partisan Interference in Vote Counting & Certification is Stopped

Notice & Opportunity to Cure

All Voting believes in a robust notice-and-cure program that gives voters at least eight days from the time an error on a ballot is discovered and the voter is notified to cure said issue. This process should also provide the same amount of time for a voter to provide identification that would make a provisional ballot count as a normal vote. The term “cure” refers to the process of fixing or remedying the perceived error(s) on a ballot.

We support the following:

- Election officials are required to notify voters within two days of reviewing the ballot if any discrepancies exist.
- Election officials are required to contact voters by phone, text, email, and mail within two days of identifying any errors on their ballot.
- After a voter is successfully notified, they should be allowed up to three weeks (and no less than eight days) to fix any perceived error.
- Election offices should be specific about the documentation necessary to fix the error and the date the office needs to receive it so as not to delay certification.

Certification as a Ministerial Duty

Certification—the written statement attesting that the tabulation and canvassing of the election is complete and accurate—must be completed in accordance with the

process and timelines set out in federal and state law. The powers of state officials in the certification process must be clearly defined and limited, and those responsible for certifying federal elections should not be allowed to rely on any information other than the election returns themselves. The job of a state official reviewing election returns for certification is to make sure the math is correct and nothing more. A state official who fails to abide by their duty should be subject to immediate removal and other penalties as applicable under state law.

Conclusion

All Voting is Local believes that the policies laid out in this Pro-Voter Agenda are a powerful step toward a thriving democracy that enfranchises voters in local, state, and federal elections. These measures—from automatic voter registration to expanded language access to additional ways to vote in person—foster inclusivity, accessibility, and representation, empowering citizens to actively participate in our electoral processes for a more equitable American democracy. We believe that these policies go beyond just the 2026 and 2028 elections and that there is still more work to be done for our country to truly achieve a democracy that works for us all. Our Pro-Voter Agenda is a milestone in advancing a better future for voters that is absolutely within reach, enfranchising millions and moving our country forward.

Appendix

Voter Registration

[Protect Democracy Voter List Maintenance Assessment: Pennsylvania](#)

Early Vote

[All Voting is Local: Effects Of Early Voting: Michigan and Pennsylvania](#)