

POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

Time has come to vote by mail

For the first time in nearly 50 years of voting, my wife and I will not be visiting the polls today.

We've joined a growing number of Pennsylvanians voting by mail. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, voting by mail is "as secure or more secure than traditional methods of voting."

Five states conduct elections exclusively by mail. Since the pandemic, more states are making mail-in ballots an attractive alternative to in-person voting. In fact, Ohio delayed its primary so it could switch to a vote-by-mail system.

Governors in Delaware, Nevada, New Jersey, New York and North Dakota ordered ballots to be mailed to all voters before this year's primary.

California will mail ballots to all voters prior to the general election.

Here in Pennsylvania, where you can apply for a mail-in ballot at your county courthouse, either by mail or on-line, more than 1.8 million Pennsylvanians have asked for one, and so far, more than 730,000 have been returned.

Because of the flood of applications and the pandemic, there have been delays. It took two weeks for us to receive our ballots, but a county voter services official told us if they didn't arrive in time, we could cast provisional ballots at the polls.

We got our ballots Thursday and dropped them off Sunday at a moni-

tored container at Montgomery County Community College West Campus.

Many counties have designated places for people to submit ballots as an alternative to mailing them.

We hope the Pennsylvania Legislature will require election officials to mail ballots to all voters in plenty of time for the November general election.

Election officials should also be authorized to count ballots starting a few days before the election so results will be available by the end of Election Day.

With mail-in ballots, people can carefully consider their ballots in the comfort of their own homes.

They don't have to worry about bad weather or long lines, or being infected by Covid-19 or the common flu. County election officials won't need to find polling places and people to staff them.

Polls show a majority of Americans favor shifting to a vote-by-mail system in time for this year's presidential election.

Let's do that while we still can.



Commentary by
Tom Hylton

Exclusive vote by mail states

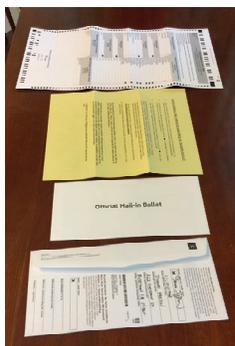
Colorado

Hawaii

Oregon

Utah

Washington



TOP LEFT, an email from the state confirms our online request for a "vote by mail" ballot. **LEFT**, a few days later we received in the mail our ballots, instructions, a "secrecy" envelope to conceal the ballot, and a mailing envelope. **TOP RIGHT**, although we could use the addressed, prepaid envelope to mail our ballots back to Montgomery County Voter Services, we took the option to place our ballots in a drop box during designated hours at Montgomery County Community College West Campus, under the watchful eye of a county security officer.