



League of Women Voters of Chester County  
[www.lwvccpa.org](http://www.lwvccpa.org)

Harrisburg, PA – October 31, 2019.

Governor Wolf made voting more convenient and secure by signing **Act 77 of 2019**, the most significant improvement to Pennsylvania's elections in more than 80 years. The bipartisan compromise legislation takes effect for the April 2020 primary election and makes Pennsylvania a national leader with voter-friendly election reforms.

**NO EXCUSE MAIL-IN VOTING**

The law creates a new option to vote by mail without providing an excuse, which is currently required for voters using absentee ballots. Pennsylvania joins 31 other states and Washington, D.C. with mail-in voting that removes barriers to elections.

**50-DAY MAIL-IN VOTING PERIOD**

All voters can request and submit their mail-in or absentee ballot up to 50 days before the election, which is the longest vote-by-mail period in the country.

**PERMANENT MAIL-IN AND ABSENTEE BALLOT LIST**

Voters can request to receive applications for mail-in or absentee ballots for all primary, general and special elections held in a given year. Counties will mail applications to voters on the list by the first Monday of each February. Voters who return an application will receive ballots for each election scheduled through the next February. Pennsylvania is the 12th state to provide voters with the automatic option.

**15 MORE DAYS TO REGISTER TO VOTE**

The deadline to register to vote is extended to 15 days from 30 days before an election. Cutting the current deadline by half enables more people to participate in elections. The new more flexible and voter friendly deadlines provide more time to register to vote than 24 other states.

**EXTENDS MAIL-IN AND ABSENTEE SUBMISSION DEADLINES**

Voters can submit mail-in and absentee ballots until 8:00 p.m. on election day. The current deadline is 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before an election, which is the most restrictive in the country. Pennsylvanians submitted 195,378 absentee ballots in 2018, but 8,162 – more than four percent – missed the deadline and were rejected. The national average is only two percent.



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