
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 47

Session of
1997

INTRODUCED BY MOWERY, SLOCUM, EARLL, PUNT, AFFLERBACH AND
RHOADES, MAY 15, 1997

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 15, 1997

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to create a
2 bipartisan task force to study the feasibility of changing
3 the date of general primary elections in nonpresidential
4 nomination years and municipal primary elections from the
5 third Tuesday in May to the third Tuesday in September.

6 WHEREAS, The number of registered voters in this Commonwealth
7 has increased while the number of people voting in elections
8 continues to decrease; and

9 WHEREAS, This decrease may be due to, among other things,
10 negative attitudes resulting from longer campaign seasons and
11 negative campaigning; and

12 WHEREAS, The current six-month period between the primary in
13 the spring and the general election in November necessitates the
14 raising of more money for campaigning than would a two-month
15 period and thus increases the influence of money on the
16 political process; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED (the House of Representatives concurring), That the
18 General Assembly direct the Joint State Government Commission to
19 create a bipartisan task force consisting of one member

1 appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, one member
2 appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, one member
3 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one
4 member appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
5 Representatives, one member appointed jointly by the President
6 pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
7 Representatives, and one representative from, and designated by,
8 each of the following: the Bureau of Election of the Department
9 of State, the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania,
10 the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, the Pennsylvania
11 State Association of Township Commissioners, the Pennsylvania
12 State Association of Township Supervisors and the Pennsylvania
13 League of Cities and Municipalities; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the task force shall study the feasibility of
15 changing general primary elections held during nonpresidential
16 election years and municipal primary elections from May to
17 September, including the costs to the State, local, county and
18 municipal governments to make the change, as well as the impact
19 such a change could have on reducing election campaigning; and
20 be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission report
22 its findings, recommendations and proposed legislation to the
23 General Assembly no later than December 1, 1997.