

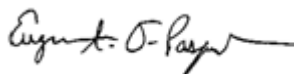
# **MEMORANDUM**

DATE: June 4, 2009

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Eugene DePasquale

RE: **Open Primary Election Legislation**



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I will be introducing legislation that would modify the Commonwealth's Primary Election system from a closed primary to an open primary. An open primary allows all voters a chance to vote, even if they are not a member of a particular political party.

Currently, as you are aware, in our closed primary system only voters who are members of the two major parties may cast a vote on Primary Election day for Republican or Democratic nominations. This type of closed primary system leaves thousands of Pennsylvanians disenfranchised on Primary Election day.

My legislation will not change how the two major party electors vote in primaries. Instead, my legislation would give voice to independents and third-party affiliates by allowing them to choose a primary in which to vote.

Currently, the 12 states that offer voters open primaries like mine are: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

The intent of this legislation is to ensure that every elector's voice is heard and recorded during primary elections. If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Laura Gausmann at 717-787-7514.