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Democratic Whip



Senate of Pennsylvania

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 17, 2011

TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Anthony H. Williams

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Legislation: **Shifting Ballots in Philadelphia County**

In the near future I will be introducing legislation to improve the election process in Philadelphia County by employing shifting ballot positions for candidates running for public offices. The purpose of this legislation is to help ensure that the most qualified public servants are representing their constituents.

Under current law, ballot position is determined through the use of a lottery system. Numerous studies conducted nationwide have indicated that candidates who draw the first position on a ballot possess a significant advantage over the candidates competing against them in an election.

My legislation will correct this flaw in the election process by utilizing a shifting ballot position. All persons in a multi-candidate election will have their names listed alphabetically; however the first candidate listed will shift with each voting ward. An example is provided below to demonstrate how the ballots would be presented under this legislation.

If you wish to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Donald Gordon, Esq. at 787-5970 or email dgordon@pasenate.com.

Ward 1

Al Alberts
Bob Brown
Chad Charles

Ward 2

Bob Brown
Chad Charles
Al Alberts

Ward 3

Chad Charles
Al Alberts
Bob Brown

Ward 4

Al Alberts
Bob Brown
Chad Charles