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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Members of the House of Representatives  
**FROM:** Representative Mark A. Longietti  
**DATE:** January 12, 2012  
**SUBJECT:** Recounts in Local Elections

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In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation amending the Act of June 3, 1937, (P.L. 1333, No. 320), also known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, which will require recounts in local elections decided by one-half of a percent or less.

As you may know, the Pennsylvania Election Code permits candidates running for public office in statewide elections to initiate requests for a recount in races decided by less than one-half of a percent of all votes cast for the contested office. I believe that this same opportunity to initiate a request for a recount should be extended to candidates in local elections decided by the same margin of less than one-half of a percentage point. All candidates shall be afforded the equal protection of our laws and this amendment to the Election Code would establish the same I believe.

While our statewide elections are of the highest importance, they should not overshadow the significance of municipal elections. Major issues such as municipal bonds, property taxes, and contracting provisions can be greatly affected by the outcome of local elections. As such, it is necessary that we treat local elections with the same level of significance as statewide elections to ensure that constituencies are fairly represented.

If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact Bob Brownawell at (717) 772-4035 x 6012 or [rbrownaw@pahouse.net](mailto:rbrownaw@pahouse.net).

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